A
VIGILANTE 407
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CHARLTON COMICS
NO. 20 JULY. CDC
GRAND PRIX
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
12¢
RICK ROBERTS IN "THE LOSING SEASON!"

COLLECT THE FINEST HORSES OF THE BIG J RANCH

~~$4.00~~ value for

$2.00

LOOK WHAT YOU GET
1 Palomino
1 Pinto
1 Mustang
3 Paint Brushes
1 Tan Paint
1 Brown Paint
1 Black Paint
Directions for painting
Horses 4"x6"

Three Exciting Horses Fun to Paint, Play With, and Collect

SEND TODAY!

Hi Kids:
Now you can collect exciting models of the finest horses on the Big J Ranch. You will receive by return mail Dorado the firey palomino, Patch the pinto, and Thunderbolt the speedy mustang. It is great fun to paint them and then to play with them. Send now for your three firey stallions.

Wrangler Hank

Alpine toy company
toymakers for the world of children

Alpine Toy Company
21 East High Street New Concord, Ohio

Rush me my exciting collection of Big J Ranch's finest horses. If I am not delighted with them I can return them for the full purchase price.

☐ Enclosed $2.00 plus 50¢ for handling and postage

☐ Enclosed $4.00 plus 50¢ for handling and postage for 2 kits of horses. (Postage for the second kit is free.)

Name_____

Street_____

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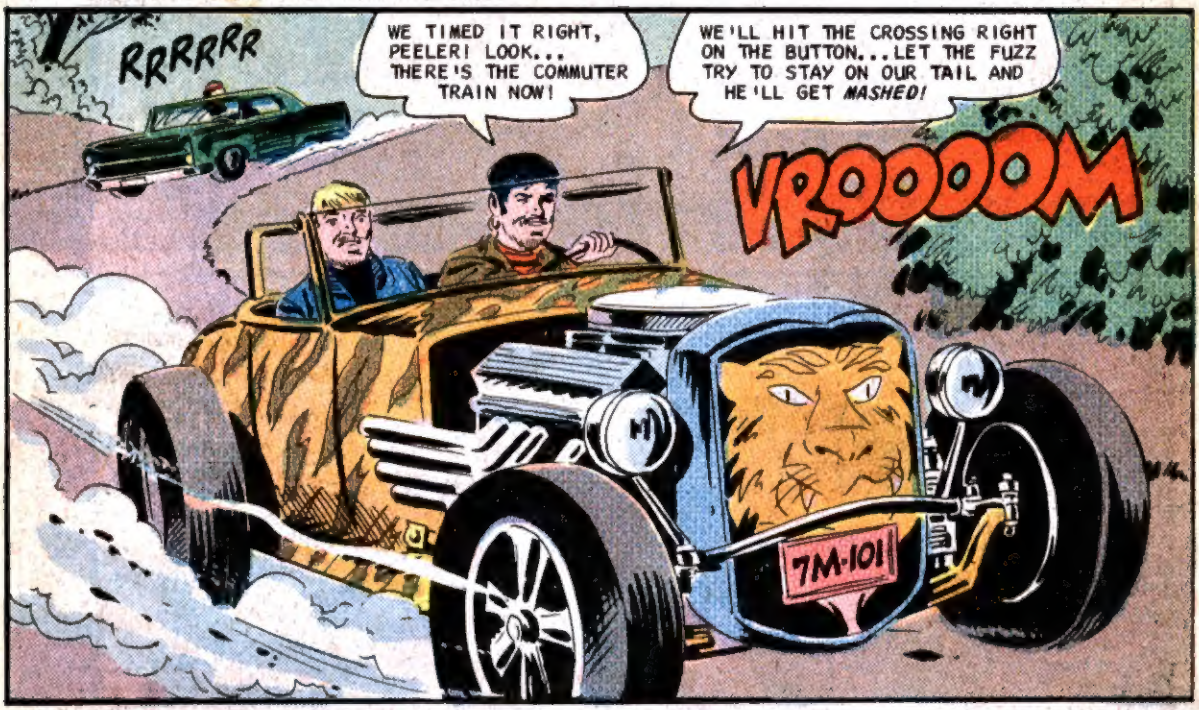
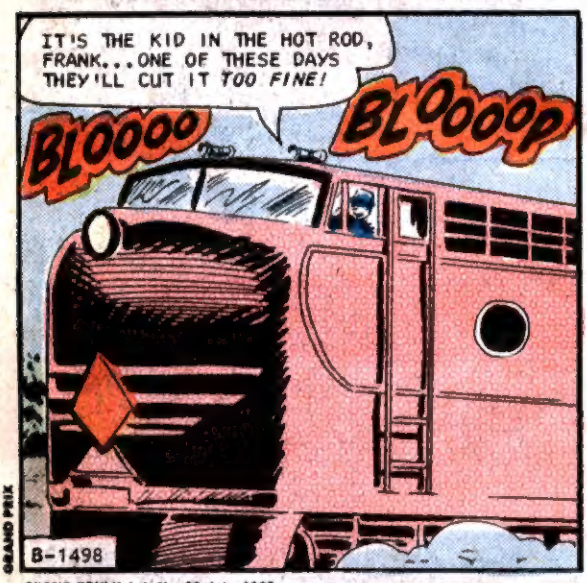
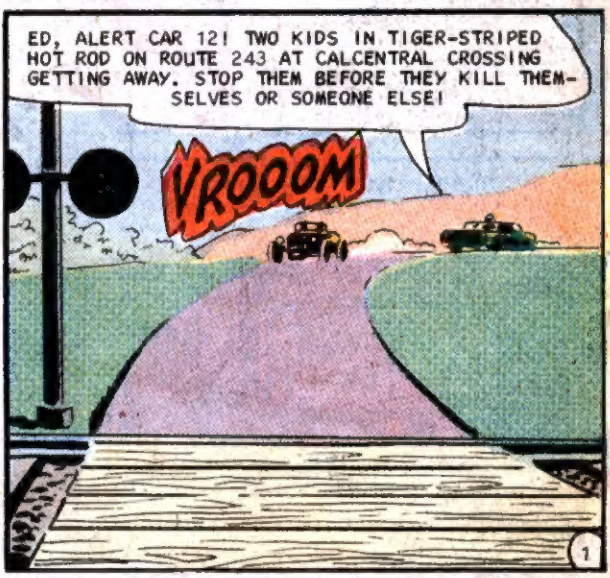
Ohio residents please include 8¢ for sales tax.

THE TIGER TAKER

MEET TIGER TOMPKINS AND HIS BUDDY, PEELER PYLE! THEY'RE FAST, MAN, THEY'RE TOUGH... THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT NOTHIN' OR NOBODY...LEAST OF ALL THE FUZZ IN THE HP CRUISER TRYING TO CROWD THEM INTO HIS CAGE!


RRRRRR
WE TIMED IT RIGHT, PEELER! LOOK... THERE'S THE COMMUTER TRAIN NOW!
WE'LL HIT THE CROSSING RIGHT ON THE BUTTON...LET THE FUZZ TRY TO STAY ON OUR TAIL AND HE'LL GET *MASHED!*
VROOOOM
7M-101




ED, ALERT CAR 12! TWO KIDS IN TIGER-STRIPED HOT ROD ON ROUTE 243 AT CALCENTRAL CROSSING GETTING AWAY. STOP THEM BEFORE THEY KILL THEMSELVES OR SOMEONE ELSE!
VROOOM
1

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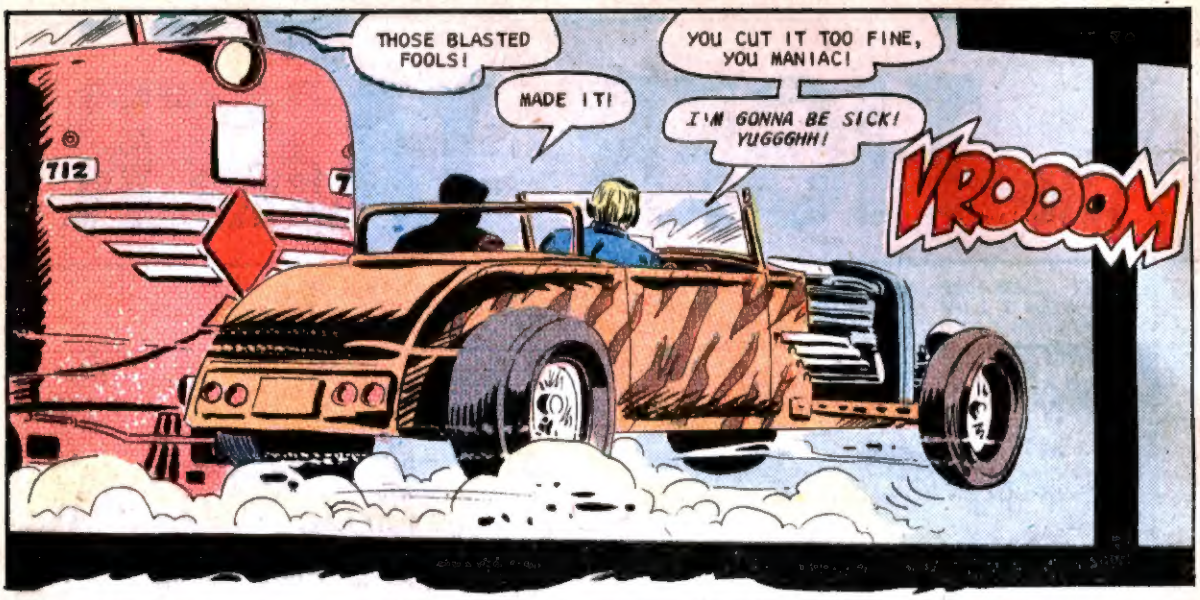
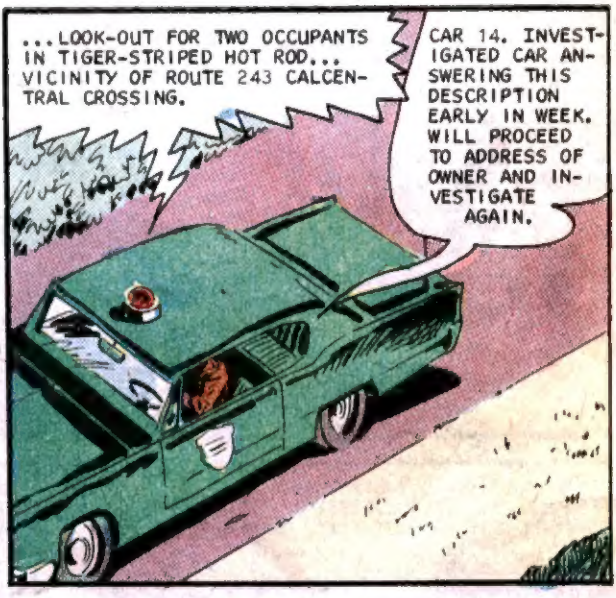
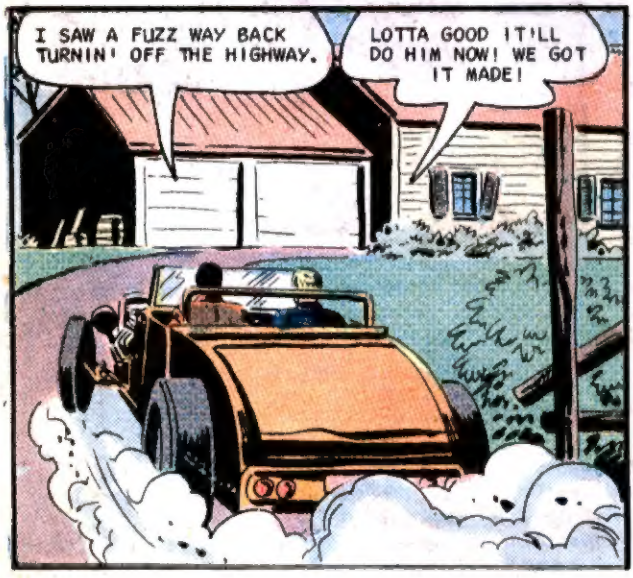
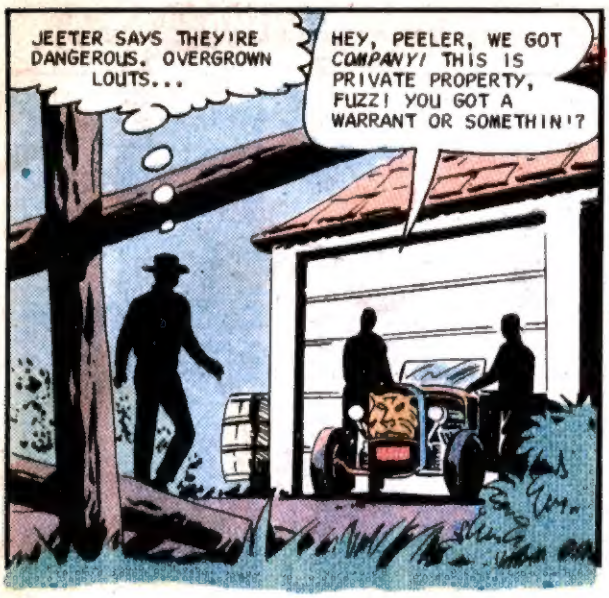

THOSE BLASTED FOOLS!
MADE IT!
YOU CUT IT TOO FINE, YOU MANIAC!
I'M GONNA BE SICK! YUGGGHH!
VROOOM
712

IF WE GET ARRESTED, I'M NOT GONNA TAKE ANY BLAME, TIGER! GET US HOME!
QUIT CLUCKIN', CHICKEN. WE GOT AWAY, ALL RIGHT!

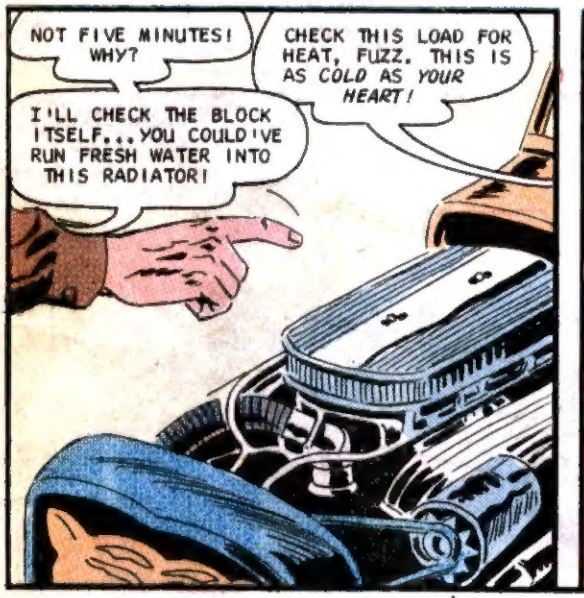

...LOOK-OUT FOR TWO OCCUPANTS IN TIGER-STRIPED HOT ROD... VICINITY OF ROUTE 243 CALCENTRAL CROSSING.
CAR 14. INVESTIGATED CAR ANSWERING THIS DESCRIPTION EARLY IN WEEK. WILL PROCEED TO ADDRESS OF OWNER AND INVESTIGATE AGAIN.


I SAW A FUZZ WAY BACK TURNIN' OFF THE HIGHWAY.
LOTTA GOOD IT'LL DO HIM NOW! WE GOT IT MADE!

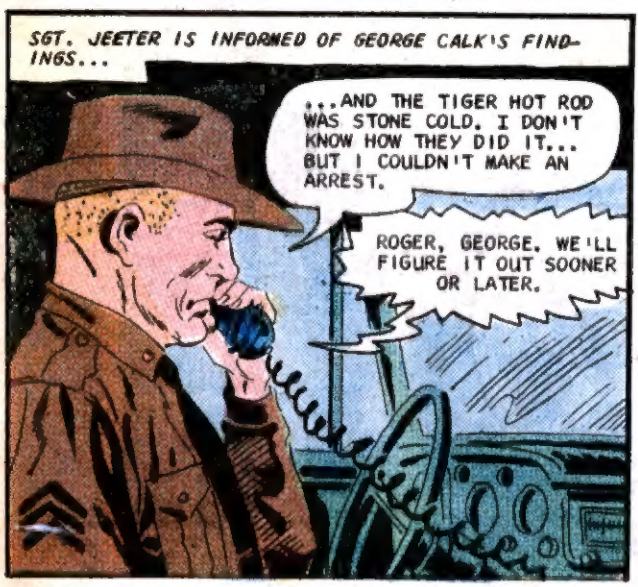
SGT. JEETER SAYS THEY WERE GOING 112 MILES AN HOUR...CRAZY KIDS...OUGHT TO HAVE THEIR LICENSES SUSPENDED. THEY WILL BE IF WE CAN PROVE A CASE.


JEETER SAYS THEY'RE DANGEROUS. OVERGROWN LOUTS...
HEY, PEELER, WE GOT COMPANY! THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY, FUZZ! YOU GOT A WARRANT OR SOMETHIN'?

A CAR ANSWERING THIS DESCRIPTION JUST BROKE ABOUT A DOZEN LAWS.
HOW LONG AGO WAS THAT, CAPTAIN?

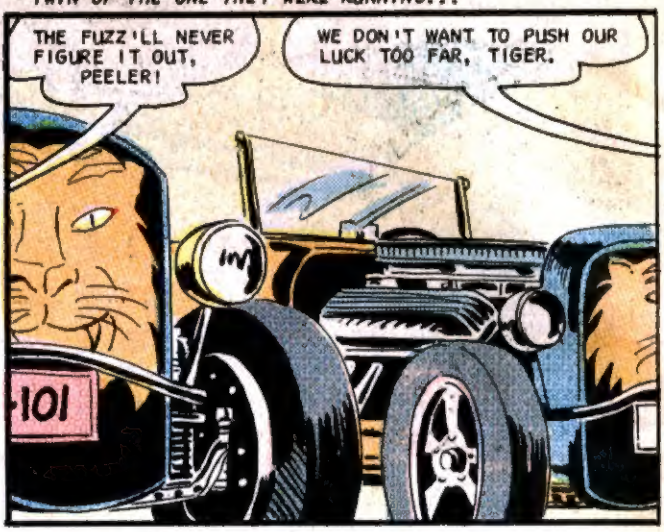

NOT FIVE MINUTES! WHY?
CHECK THIS LOAD FOR HEAT, FUZZ. THIS IS AS COLD AS YOUR HEART!
I'LL CHECK THE BLOCK ITSELF...YOU COULD'VE RUN FRESH WATER INTO THIS RADIATOR!

BUT...
I CAN'T MAKE AN ARREST BUT I KNOW YOU TWO ARE THE ONES WHO RAN FROM SGT. JEETER! WE'LL BE WATCHING FOR YOU!
LOTTA GOOD THAT'LL DO YA!


SGT. JEETER IS INFORMED OF GEORGE CALK'S FINDINGS...
...AND THE TIGER HOT ROD WAS STONE COLD. I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY DID IT... BUT I COULDN'T MAKE AN ARREST.
ROGER, GEORGE. WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT SOONER OR LATER.

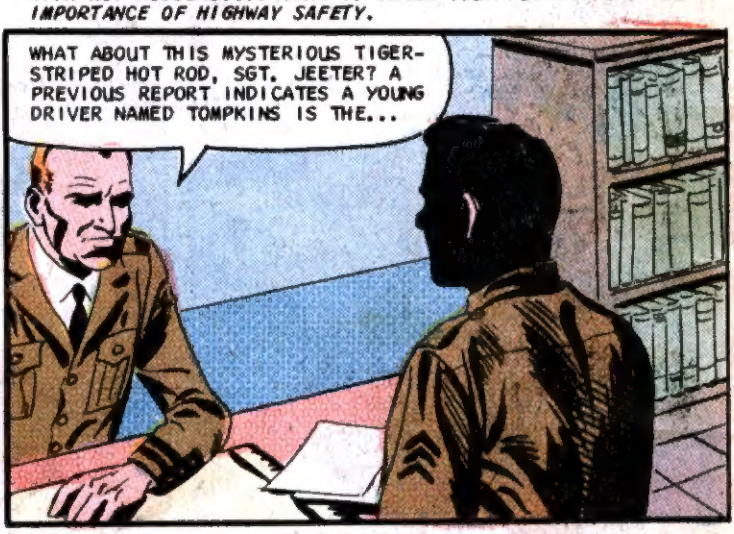
I HOPE WE DO IN TIME TO SAVE THEIR LIVES...BEFORE THEY INJURE OR KILL SOMEONE ELSE ALONG WITH THEM!

THIS IS WHY TROOPER CALK FOUND A COLD CAR...IT'S A TWIN OF THE ONE THEY WERE RUNNING...



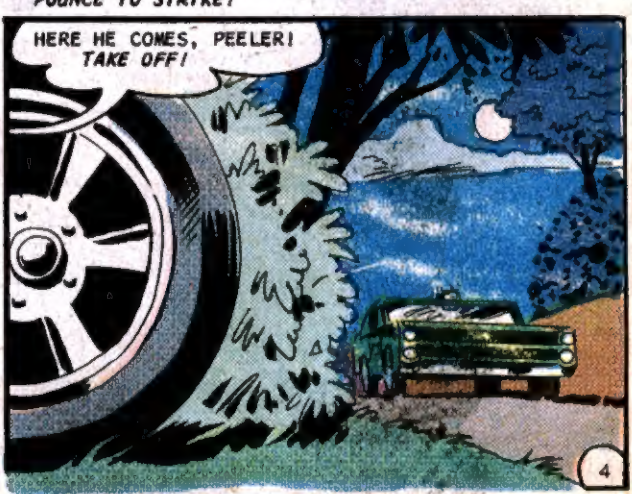
I WANT TO SEE THIS SGT. JEETER'S FACE SOME DAY WHEN HE DOES FIND OUT! LIKE AT THE DIGYARD TWO WEEKS FROM NOW. HE'S THE FUZZ THEY ALWAYS ASSIGN OUT THERE.

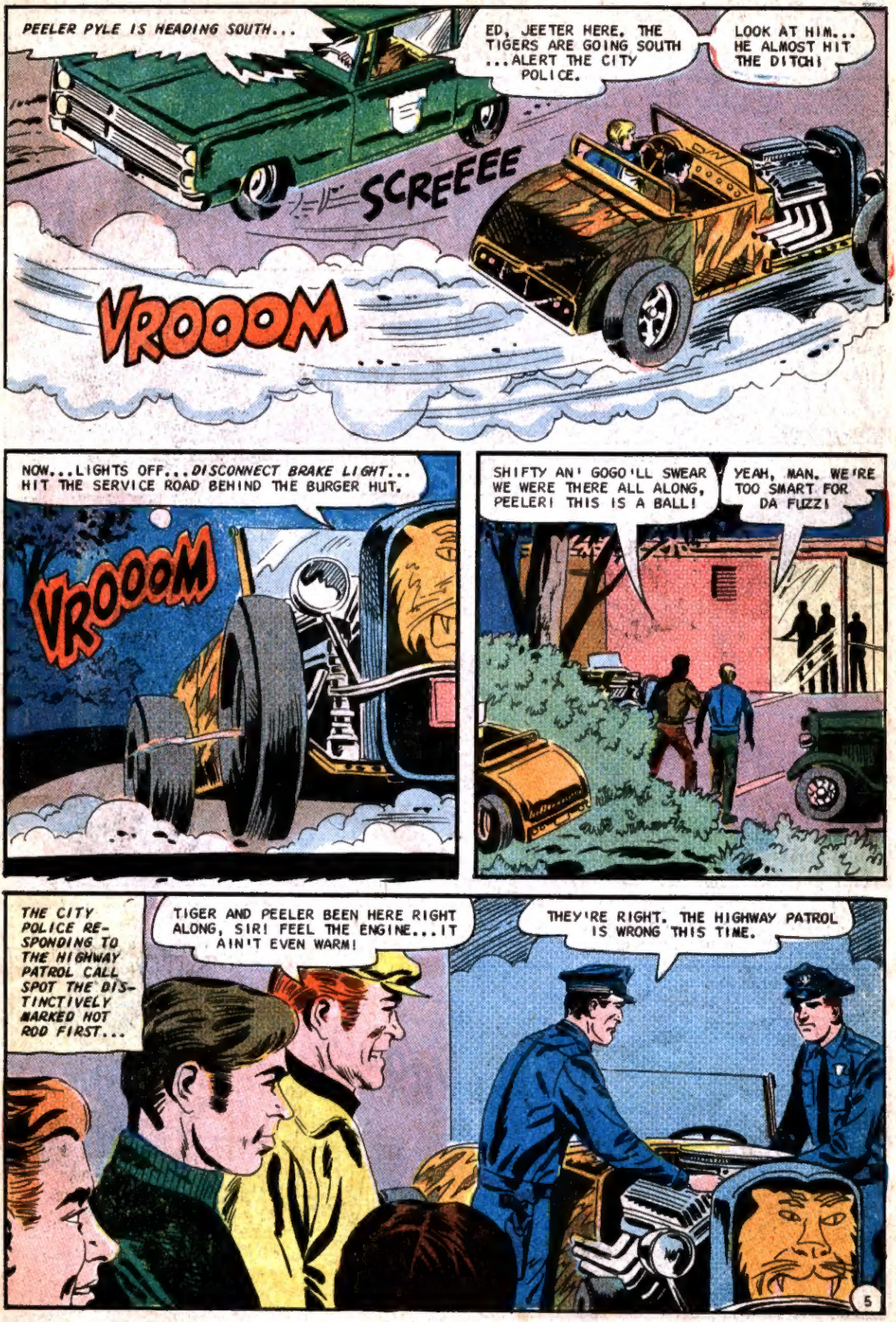
ONE OF THE SERGEANT'S SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS WAS WORKING WITH HOT RODDERS...TRYING TO TEACH YOUTHFUL DRIVERS THE IMPORTANCE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY.


WHAT ABOUT THIS MYSTERIOUS TIGER-STRIPED HOT ROD, SGT. JEETER? A PREVIOUS REPORT INDICATES A YOUNG DRIVER NAMED TOMPKINS IS THE...

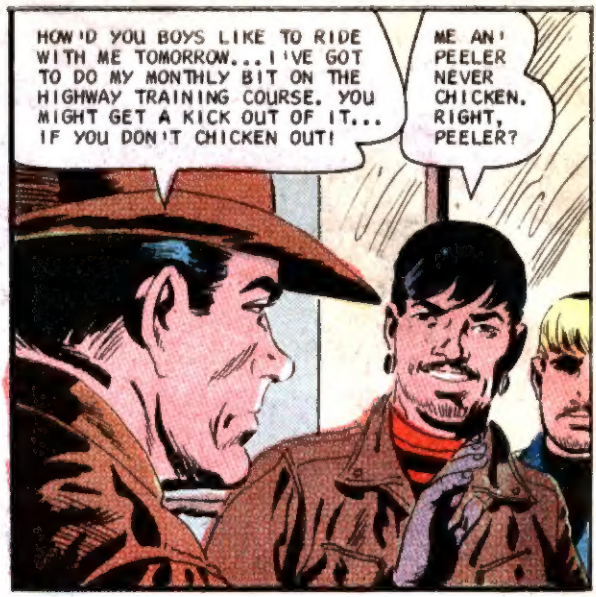
TOMPKINS IS THE ONE, CAPTAIN... BUT HE'S GOT A BUDDY NAMED PYLE WHO HAS A SIMILAR HOT ROD! WE HAVEN'T PROVED IT YET BUT THAT'S THE WAY THEY'RE GETTING AWAY WITH ALL THIS.

A FEW NIGHTS LATER AS SGT. JEETER PATROLS RT. 243...HIDDEN BY THE ROAD, TIGER AND PEELER POUNCE TO STRIKE!

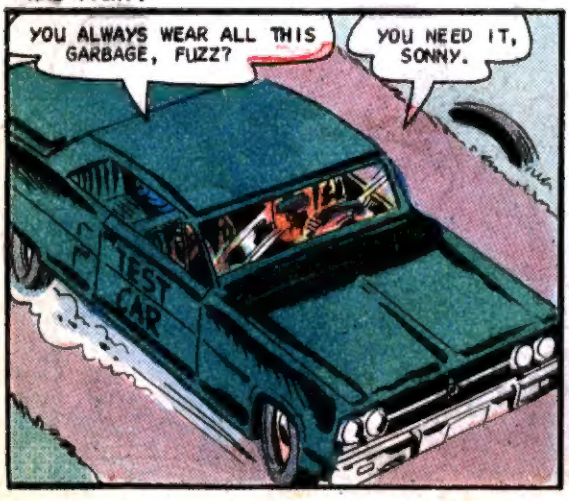


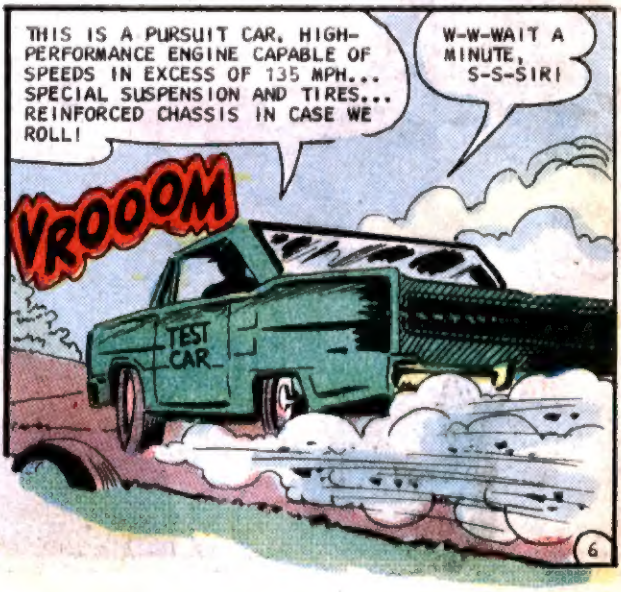

PEELER PYLE IS HEADING SOUTH...
ED, JEETER HERE. THE TIGERS ARE GOING SOUTH ...ALERT THE CITY POLICE.
LOOK AT HIM... HE ALMOST HIT THE DITCH!
SCREEEE
VROOOM
NOW...LIGHTS OFF...DISCONNECT BRAKE LIGHT... HIT THE SERVICE ROAD BEHIND THE BURGER HUT.
VROOOM
SHIFTY AN' GOGO'LL SWEAR WE WERE THERE ALL ALONG, PEELER! THIS IS A BALL!
YEAH, MAN. WE'RE TOO SMART FOR DA FUZZ!
THE CITY POLICE RESPONDING TO THE HIGHWAY PATROL CALL SPOT THE DISTINCTIVELY MARKED HOT ROD FIRST...
TIGER AND PEELER BEEN HERE RIGHT ALONG, SIR! FEEL THE ENGINE...IT AIN'T EVEN WARM!
THEY'RE RIGHT. THE HIGHWAY PATROL IS WRONG THIS TIME.
5

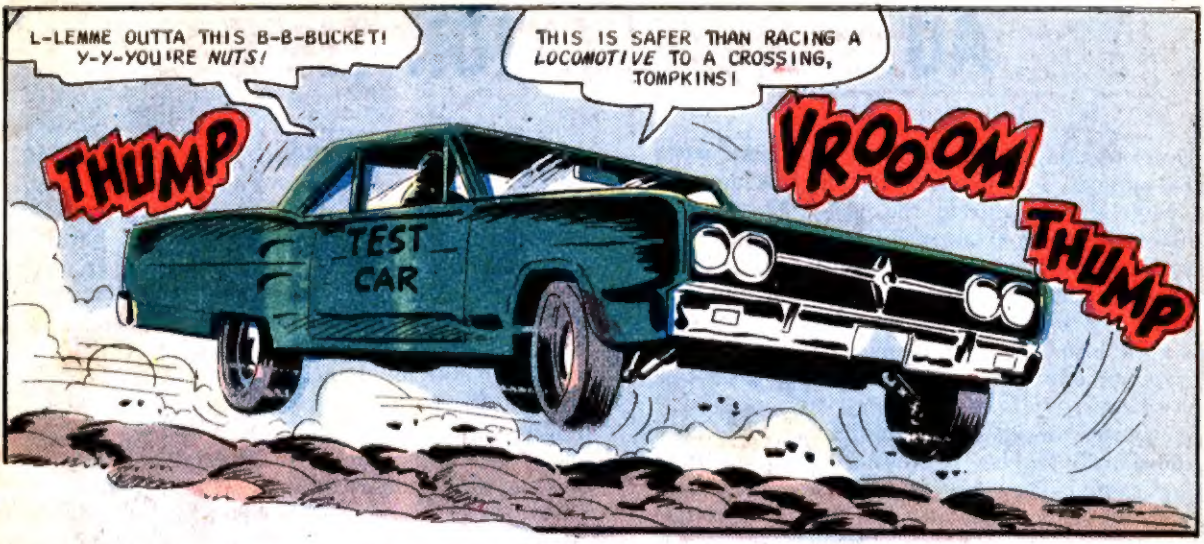
SGT. JEETER FINDS THE HOT RODDERS CELEBRATING ...HE'S GOT TO DISCREDIT THIS PAIR OR THEY'LL HAVE THEIR BUDDIES BREAKING THE LAW TOO!

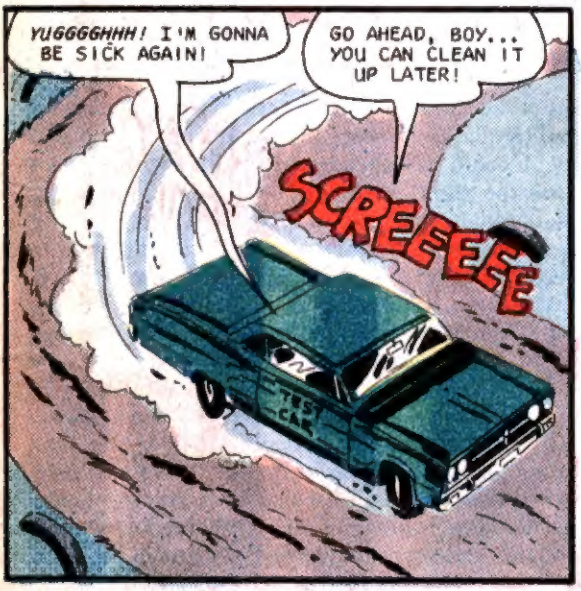

HOW'D YOU BOYS LIKE TO RIDE WITH ME TOMORROW... I'VE GOT TO DO MY MONTHLY BIT ON THE HIGHWAY TRAINING COURSE. YOU MIGHT GET A KICK OUT OF IT... IF YOU DON'T CHICKEN OUT!
ME AN' PEELER NEVER CHICKEN. RIGHT, PEELER?

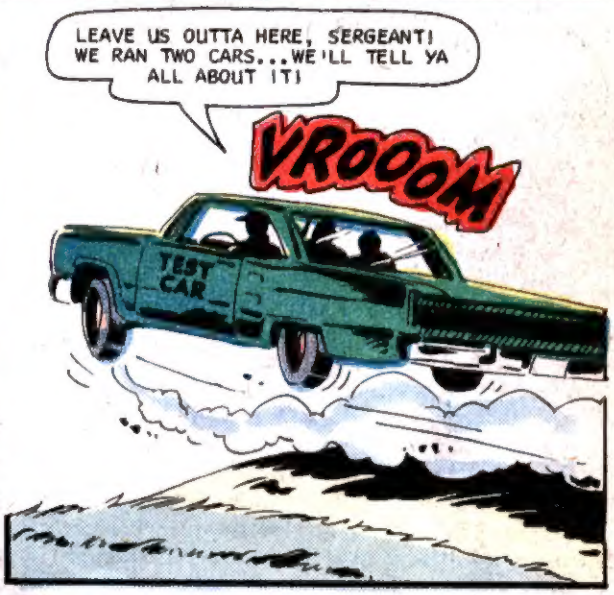
SGT. JEETER WASTES NO TIME...AND HE MAKES SURE THEIR SEAT BELTS AND SHOULDER STRAPS ARE TIGHT.

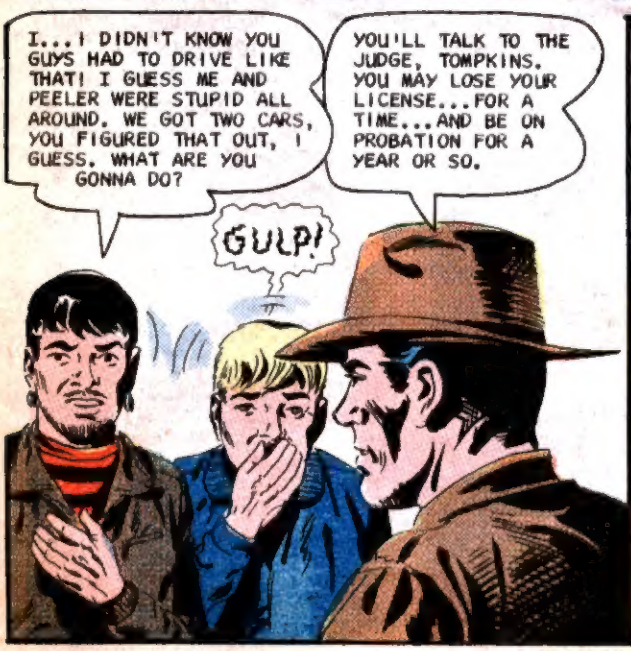



THIS IS A PURSUIT CAR. HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENGINE CAPABLE OF SPEEDS IN EXCESS OF 135 MPH... SPECIAL SUSPENSION AND TIRES... REINFORCED CHASSIS IN CASE WE ROLL!
W-W-WAIT A MINUTE, S-S-SIR!
VROOOM
TEST CAR


L-LEMME OUTTA THIS B-B-BUCKET! Y-Y-YOU'RE NUTS!
THIS IS SAFER THAN RACING A LOCOMOTIVE TO A CROSSING, TOMPKINS!
THUMP
VROOOM
THUMP
TEST CAR


YUGGGGHHH! I'M GONNA BE SICK AGAIN!
GO AHEAD, BOY... YOU CAN CLEAN IT UP LATER!
SCREEEEE
TEST CAR


LEAVE US OUTTA HERE, SERGEANT! WE RAN TWO CARS...WE'LL TELL YA ALL ABOUT IT!
VROOOM
TEST CAR


I...I DIDN'T KNOW YOU GUYS HAD TO DRIVE LIKE THAT! I GUESS ME AND PEELER WERE STUPID ALL AROUND. WE GOT TWO CARS, YOU FIGURED THAT OUT, I GUESS. WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
YOU'LL TALK TO THE JUDGE, TOMPKINS. YOU MAY LOSE YOUR LICENSE...FOR A TIME...AND BE ON PROBATION FOR A YEAR OR SO.
GULP!

ONE MORE THING, SIR. WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO GET ON THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL WHEN I'M OLD ENOUGH?
KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE AND GET GOOD GRADES IN SCHOOL, TOMPKINS ...YOU CAN MAKE IT IF YOU WANT TO BADLY ENOUGH!
THE END

AUTO REFLECTION TIME

Every Monday night I sit in my easy chair with paper and pen. I jot down everything that happened while driving during the past week. Then I carefully go over every event in my mind. The most important question to be answered is: How close was I to an accident? Next, if it happens again, can I foresee it and thus not be involved? Was there also some fault on my part? And, finally, was it something most unusual—that probably won't happen again in a million years?

We have a four-lane modern highway that leads to the suburb: two lanes going north and two lanes going south. They are parallel except for one stretch where they separate. And that is where the following incident happened. I was driving in the right-hand lane. Ahead of me was a car going in the same direction in the left-hand lane. Suddenly the driver pulled off at a wide space and started to turn her car around. My wife spotted her. I blew my horn like one mad, put on my blinkers and shouted: "That's a one-way road. You can't go back!" Fortunately she got the message in time—and the driver behind her slowed up. She got back into the lane again and went northward until she could turn off at an exit road.

This is the first time I saw this happen in my years of driving. What went wrong? I imagine she never saw the other two lanes separate and somehow figured she was going to go back on one of them. With fast heavy traffic we would have had a series of "pile-ups." It is good to keep your eyes alert anyway for the car, that pulls off the road. Who knows what is in the driver's mind?

If I can't see ahead, then I slow down—with my foot ready for the brake if necessary. Which I did once, and very fortunately for all concerned. For there in the underpass was a car with a flat tire and the driver changing wheels! No use saying he was stupid, careless, and looking for trouble. The fact is he was there. It would have been simple for the two passengers and himself to push the car to a safer place. Or, if necessary, drive on the flat. So what if it is ruined? What's cheaper a ruined tire or a ruined car and ruined lives?

On one stretch of road I know every inch—and every danger spot. I have learned that the speeding car will swerve over, force you off the road, and may even hit you—all to avoid the obstacle he saw too late. Driving in the left-hand lane one day, I could see ahead, and thus knew they were fixing the right-hand lane—with traffic squeezing into my lane. But in my mirror I saw this speeding car coming up in the right-hand lane. I figured he never would spot the "lane closed" sign until it was too late. I blew my horn, but to no avail. I slowed down to almost a crawl, and he got over just in time. Had I not done this well, you can see what would have taken place. Why he was doing 70 on a 45-mph stretch is anyone's guess.

The next incident was really a "first" for me. Through talking it over with other drivers, I have learned they have faced it also. I was coming home from the beach area, in the right-hand lane of a two-lane highway going west. I then came to a double-lane lead-in road which was curved. I saw the big blue car going at a moderate speed. I could proceed safely. And then my wife screamed. Fortunately, she has a powerful set of lungs. "There's another car!" It was a little car which had been at the side of the big car, going at the same speed around the curved road. I never saw it—nor could I have seen it. That car cut right ahead of me. My brakes saved me. Now we go much slower and at a slightly different angle so that we figure we can spot another small car—if its driver tries the same thing.

Maybe someday I will write, "A Crossing Manual for Old Ladies." This seems to happen at least once a week where I live. You see that nice old lady waiting at the corner for the lights to change? She crosses the street, but not the way other people do it. She never crosses on the green! Only on the red. She doesn't care what happens. Up goes her hand as a warning signal to all drivers to stop. Never mind the driver who comes up on the side of the other car and doesn't see her. Maybe she is flirting with death. Who knows what makes her tick? But she does exist as a deadly menace, and I am exceedingly cautious whenever I feel one of her variety is about to cross to the other side.

I feel it is a good idea to make a habit of reflecting about driving situations each week.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

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8. Known Leaseholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities (If there are none, so state)
   None

9. FOR COMPLETION BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL RATES
(Section 132.122, Postal Manual)
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10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest To Filing Date
A. TOTAL NO. COPIES PRINTED (Net Press Run)	215,000	228,000
B. PAID CIRCULATION		
1. SALES THROUGH DEALERS AND CARRIERS, STREET VENDORS AND COUNTER SALES	117,800	125,600
2. MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	202	286
C. TOTAL PAID CIRCULATION	118,002	125,886
D. FREE DISTRIBUTION (including samples) BY MAIL, CARRIER OR OTHER MEANS	21	25
E. TOTAL DISTRIBUTION (Sum of C and D)	118,023	125,911
F. OFFICE USE, LEFT-OVER, UNACCOUNTED, SPOILED AFTER PRINTING	96,973	102,089
G. TOTAL (Sum of E & F – should equal net press run shown in A)	215,000	228,000

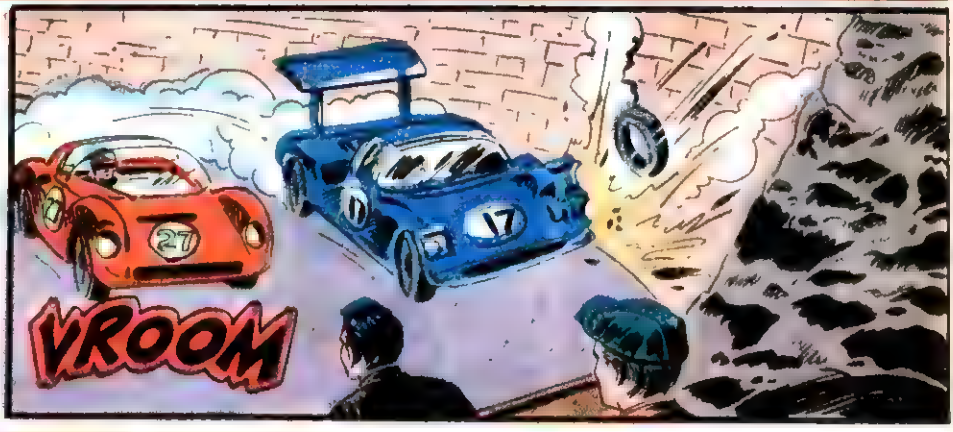
I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(Signature of publisher) John Santangelo, Jr

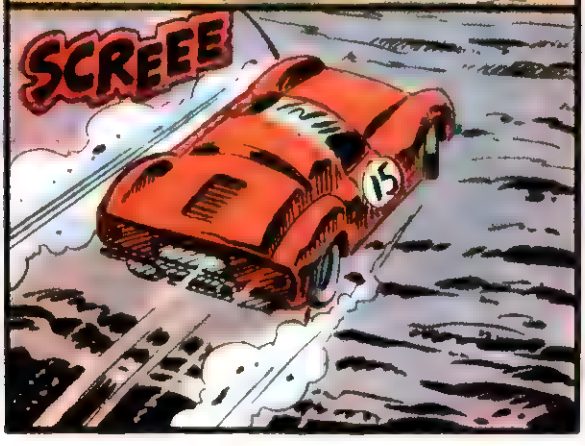
A NEW WORLD OF THRILLS, SPILLS AND DANGER ON WHEELS

TOO MANY HORSES

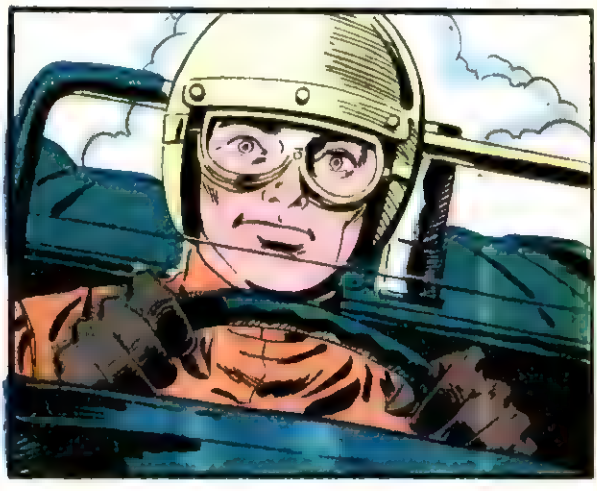
THIS IS THE TARGA FLORIO WHERE BIG POWERFUL CARS ARE OFTEN TOO, TOO MUCH ... WHERE THE HUGE SEVEN-LITER CHAPARRAL CAN BE PASSED BY THE TINY FIAT 124 ... WHERE A FORD GT-40 ISN'T AS GOOD AS A SIX CYLINDER PORSCHE!



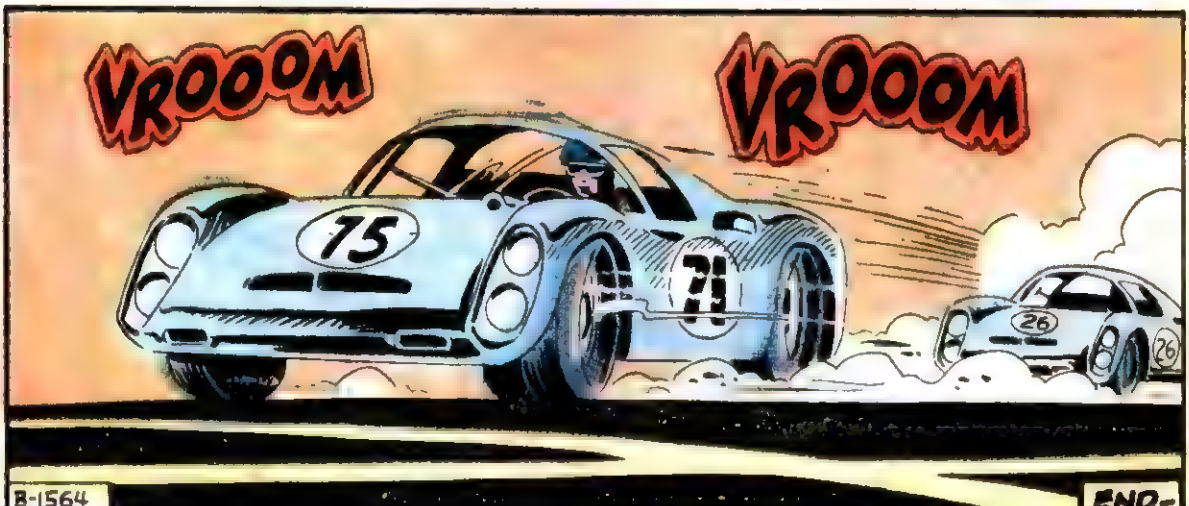
THE EXASPERATED DRIVERS SAY THE TRACK IS TWO FIATS WIDE AND 72 KM LONG (ABOUT 45 MILES) ... AND THE BIG, FAST CARS JUST DON'T STAY ON THE ROAD!



RALLY DRIVERS DO BETTER HERE THAN THE HIGH-SPEED FLAT TRACK.



YEAR AFTER YEAR, PORSCHE BUNCHES UP IN THE FIRST THREE OR MORE PLACES.

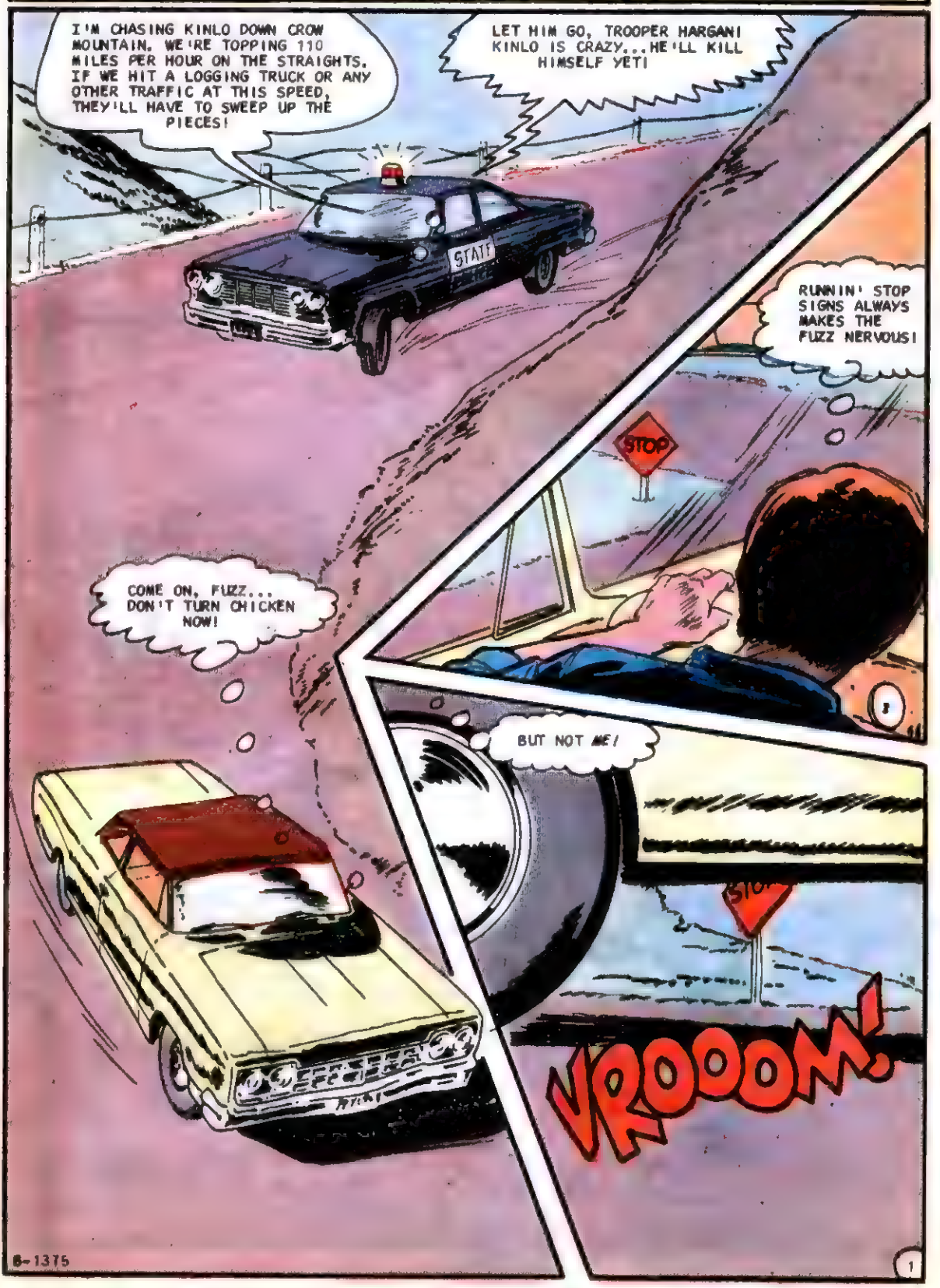


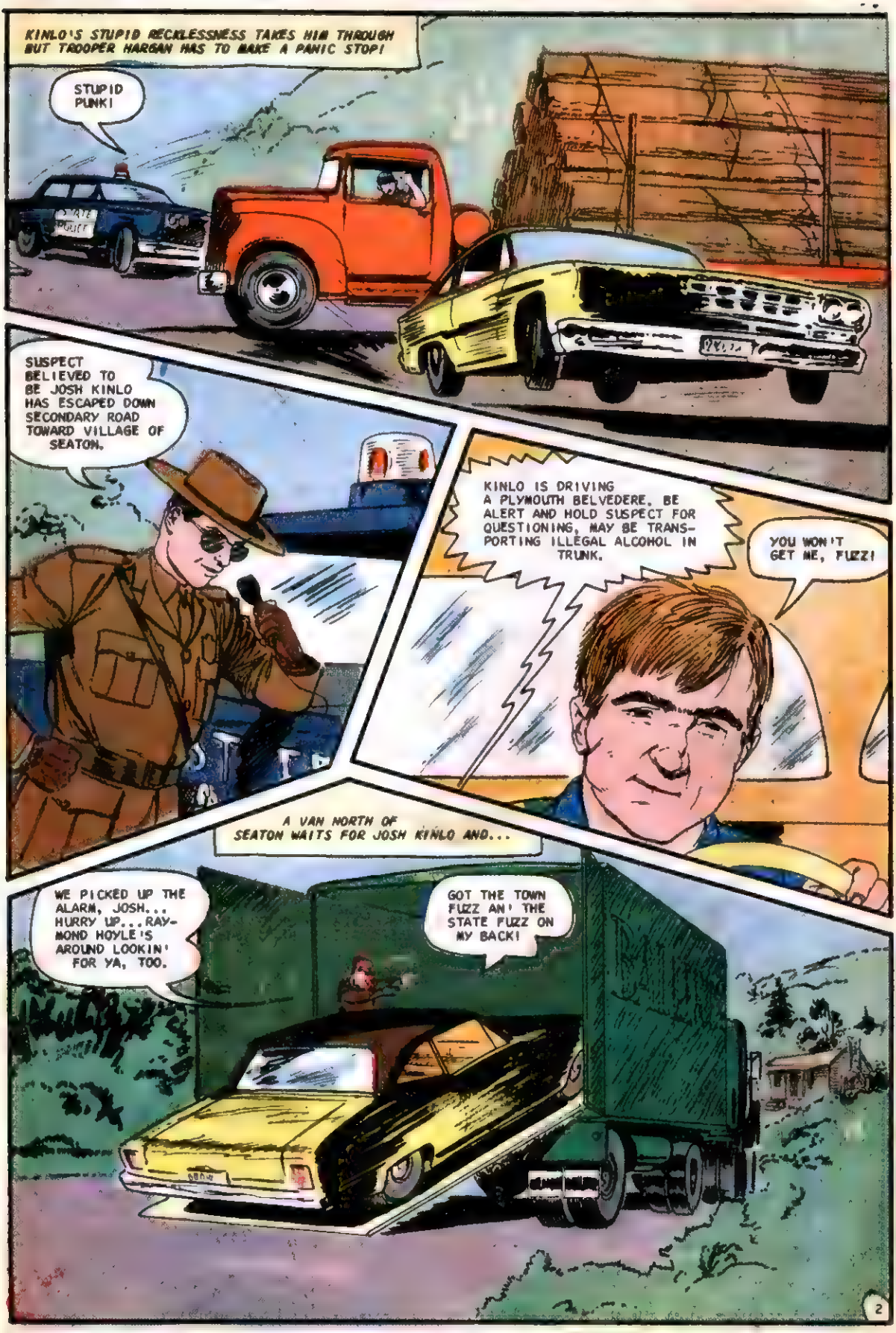
B-1564

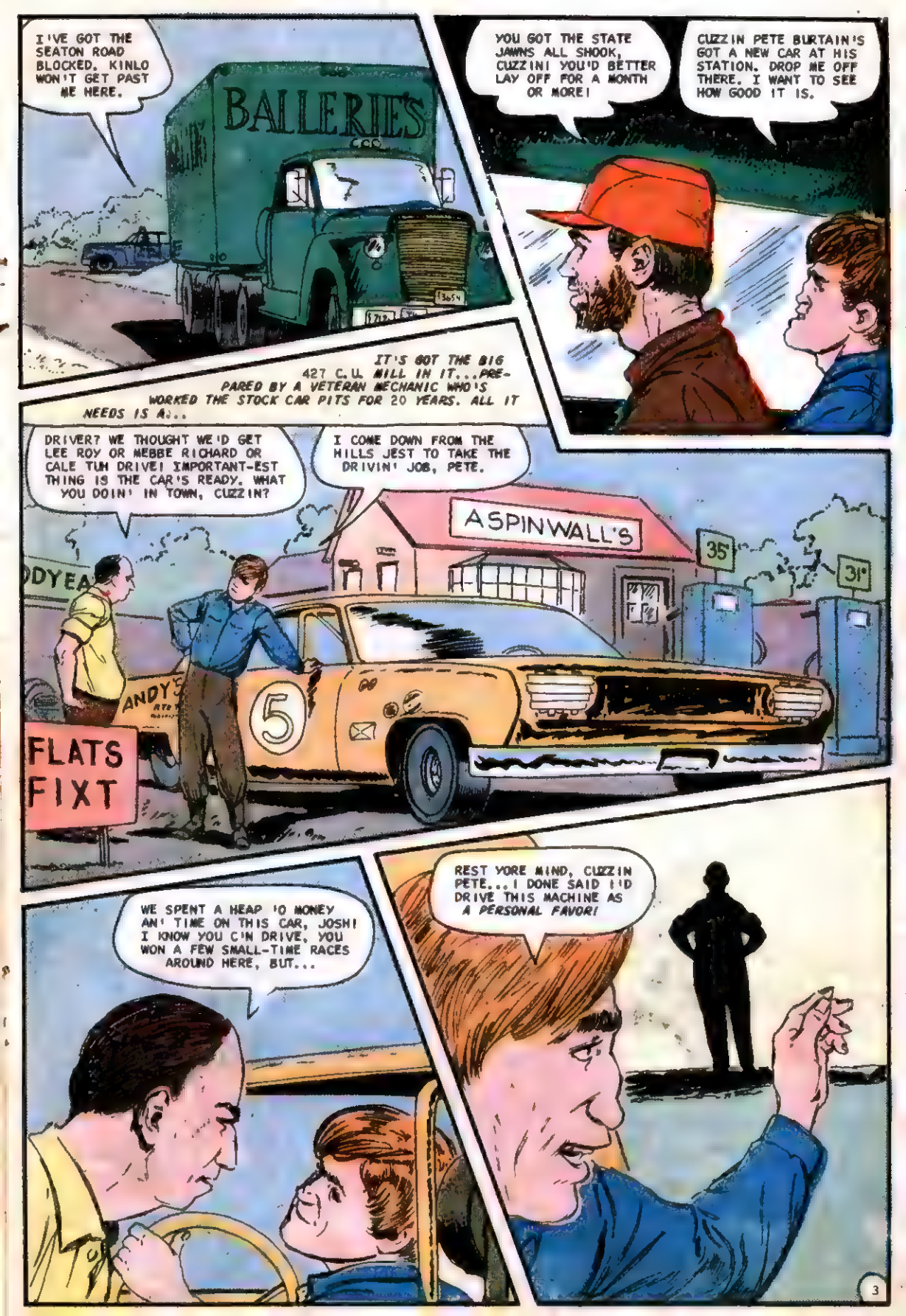
END-

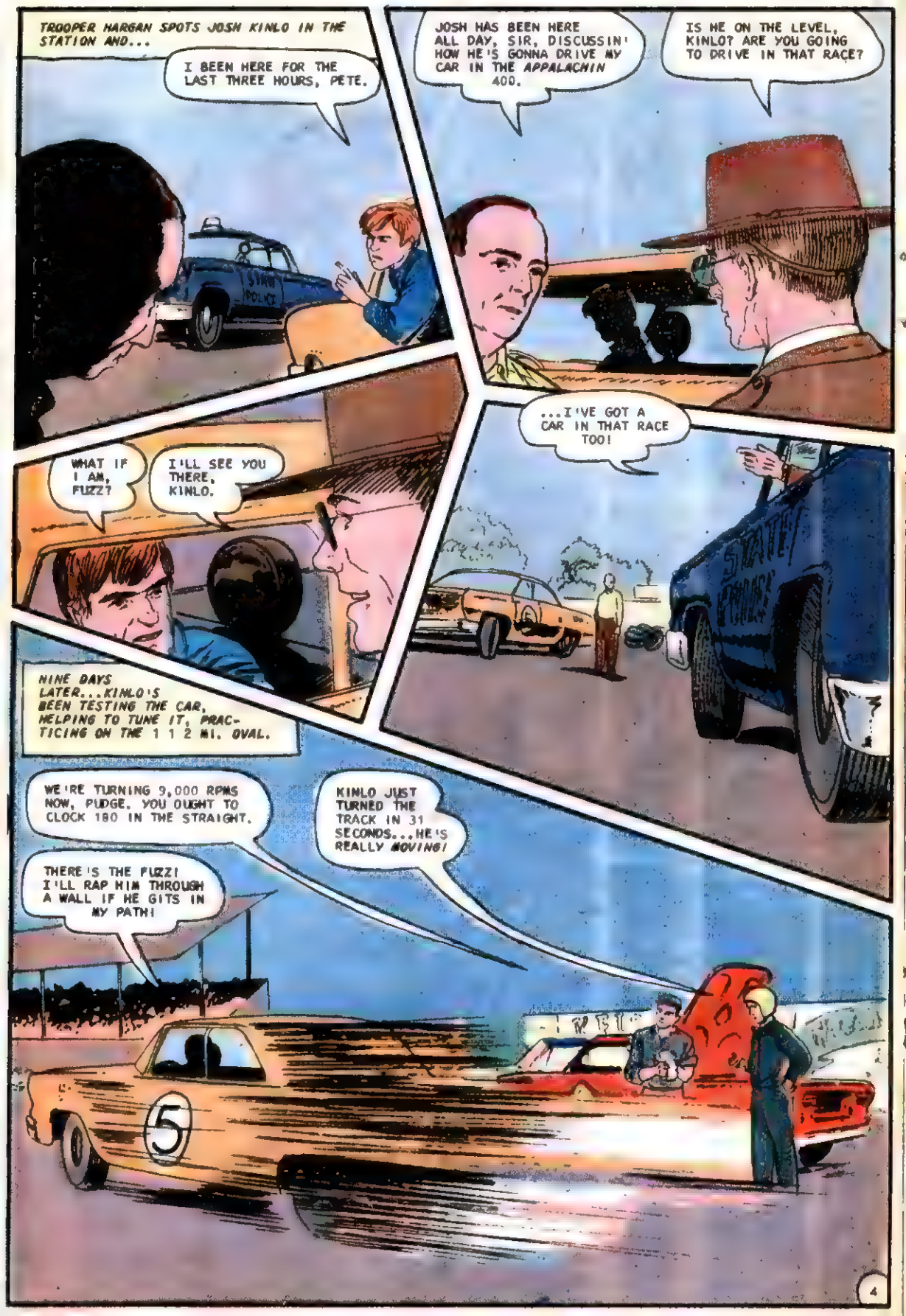
FOR MONEY OR MARBLES

STATE TROOPER PUDGE HARGAN IS NEW IN THESE CAROLINA HILLS...BUT HE'S BEEN ALERTED TO LOOK FOR JOSH KINLO'S 426 C.U. BELVEDERE...HE'S PROBABLY RUNNING ILLEGAL WHISKEY MADE IN A BACK-COUNTRY STILL...AND NOW THE RACE IS ON!


I'M CHASING KINLO DOWN CROW MOUNTAIN. WE'RE TOPPING 110 MILES PER HOUR ON THE STRAIGHTS. IF WE HIT A LOGGING TRUCK OR ANY OTHER TRAFFIC AT THIS SPEED, THEY'LL HAVE TO SWEEP UP THE PIECES!
LET HIM GO, TROOPER HARGAN! KINLO IS CRAZY...HE'LL KILL HIMSELF YET!
STATE
RUNNIN' STOP SIGNS ALWAYS MAKES THE FUZZ NERVOUS!
STOP
COME ON, FUZZ... DON'T TURN CHICKEN NOW!
BUT NOT ME!
STOP
VROOOM!


KINLO'S STUPID RECKLESSNESS TAKES HIM THROUGH BUT TROOPER HARGAN HAS TO MAKE A PANIC STOP!
STUPID PUNK!
STATE POLICE
SUSPECT BELIEVED TO BE JOSH KINLO HAS ESCAPED DOWN SECONDARY ROAD TOWARD VILLAGE OF SEATON.
KINLO IS DRIVING A PLYMOUTH BELVEDERE. BE ALERT AND HOLD SUSPECT FOR QUESTIONING, MAY BE TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALCOHOL IN TRUNK.
YOU WON'T GET ME, FUZZ!
A VAN NORTH OF SEATON WAITS FOR JOSH KINLO AND...
WE PICKED UP THE ALARM, JOSH... HURRY UP...RAYMOND HOYLE'S AROUND LOOKIN' FOR YA, TOO.
GOT THE TOWN FUZZ AN' THE STATE FUZZ ON MY BACK!


I'VE GOT THE SEATON ROAD BLOCKED. KINLO WON'T GET PAST ME HERE.
BALLERIE'S
YOU GOT THE STATE JAWNS ALL SHOOK, CUZZIN! YOU'D BETTER LAY OFF FOR A MONTH OR MORE!
CUZZIN PETE BURTAIN'S GOT A NEW CAR AT HIS STATION. DROP ME OFF THERE. I WANT TO SEE HOW GOOD IT IS.
IT'S GOT THE BIG 427 C.U. MILL IN IT...PREPARED BY A VETERAN MECHANIC WHO'S WORKED THE STOCK CAR PITS FOR 20 YEARS. ALL IT NEEDS IS A...
DRIVER? WE THOUGHT WE'D GET LEE ROY OR MEBBE RICHARD OR CALE TUH DRIVE! IMPORTANT-EST THING IS THE CAR'S READY. WHAT YOU DOIN' IN TOWN, CUZZIN?
I COME DOWN FROM THE HILLS JEST TO TAKE THE DRIVIN' JOB, PETE.
ASPINWALL'S
35
31
5
FLATS FIXT
WE SPENT A HEAP 'O MONEY AN' TIME ON THIS CAR, JOSH! I KNOW YOU C'IN DRIVE, YOU WON A FEW SMALL-TIME RACES AROUND HERE, BUT...
REST YORE MIND, CUZZIN PETE... I DONE SAID I'D DRIVE THIS MACHINE AS A PERSONAL FAVOR!


TROOPER HARGAN SPOTS JOSH KINLO IN THE STATION AND...
I BEEN HERE FOR THE LAST THREE HOURS, PETE.
STATE POLICE
JOSH HAS BEEN HERE ALL DAY, SIR, DISCUSSIN' HOW HE'S GONNA DRIVE MY CAR IN THE APPALACHIN 400.
IS HE ON THE LEVEL, KINLO? ARE YOU GOING TO DRIVE IN THAT RACE?
WHAT IF I AM, FUZZ?
I'LL SEE YOU THERE, KINLO.
...I'VE GOT A CAR IN THAT RACE TOO!
STATE POLICE
NINE DAYS LATER...KINLO'S BEEN TESTING THE CAR, HELPING TO TUNE IT, PRACTICING ON THE 1 1 2 MI. OVAL.
WE'RE TURNING 9,000 RPMS NOW, PUDGE. YOU OUGHT TO CLOCK 180 IN THE STRAIGHT.
KINLO JUST TURNED THE TRACK IN 31 SECONDS...HE'S REALLY MOVING!
THERE'S THE FUZZ! I'LL RAP HIM THROUGH A WALL IF HE GITS IN MY PATH!
5

YOU WON'T HAVE A UNIFORM ON WHEN YOU'RE ON THE TRACK, FUZZ! YOU'RE LIABLE TO GET BRUISED UP!
KEEP AWAY FROM ME, LOUDMOUTH.
DON'T BADMOUTH ME, FUZZ! I'LL DROP YA!
RUN ALONG, KINLO.
KINLO'S BEATIN' UP ON THE STATE JAWN!
I WARNED YOU, KINLO...*KNOCK IT OFF!*
OOOFF! STAND AN' FIGHT, CHICKEN!
THIS ISN'T *A FIGHT*, KINLO...
...IT'S TOO *ONE-SIDED* FOR THAT!
THAT PUDGE MOVES MIGHTY QUICK FOR HIS SIZE!

I DIDN'T WANT YOU BADLY BEATEN, KINLO, FOR ONE REASON.
LIKE WHAT, FUZZ?
A BADLY SWOLLEN EYE MIGHT KEEP YOU FROM RACING... AND I WANT YOU OUT THERE ON THE TRACK TO DEMONSTRATE ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT YOU'RE NOT AS GOOD AS YOU THINK!
KINLO'S GOT THE POLE, THANKS TO A BRILLIANT, RECKLESS 142.5 MPH QUALIFYING LAP. PUDGE HARGAN, THE STATE COP, IS BACK IN 6TH.
ANYONE GITS IN MY ROAD'LL GET MANGLED!
KINLO'S CAR IS FAST AND HE'S HALF CRAZY.. HE'LL BE MIGHTY HARD TO GO BY!
74
HE SPUN WATSON OUT... EVERYONE'S HANGING BACK!
NO, KINLO, GIMME ROO...
I'M GONNA WIN IT ALL! NOBODY'S GONNA GET BY ME!
11

PUDGE HARGAN MOVED INTO SECOND PLACE...A FOOT BACK OF KINLO! NOW, KINLO'S ENGINE IS DOING THE WORK OF MOVING HARGAN'S CAR AROUND THE TRACK.
THAT STUPID FUZZ CAN'T TAILGATE ME! I'LL SHOW HIM!
KINLO MASHED THE GAS PEDAL TO THE FLOOR AND HELD IT...TOO LONG...GOING INTO A TIGHT TURN HE BROADSLIDES AND SMASHES INTO THE CONCRETE WALL!
SO LONG, RIDGERUNNER!
I GOT WORD THIS MORNING...THE FEDERAL PEOPLE RAIDED ALL THE STILLS ON CROW MOUNTAIN. YOU'RE OUT OF BUSINESS.
THE WINNER, PUDGE HARGAN...
YOU'LL TALK ME TO DEATH IF YOU GET ME UP THERE, KINLO!
KEEP OFFA CROW MOUNTAIN, FUZZ! IF I GET YA UP THERE...
THE END

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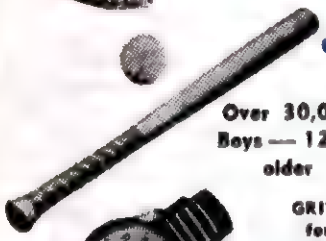

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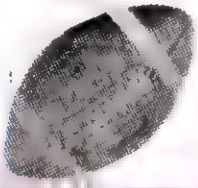

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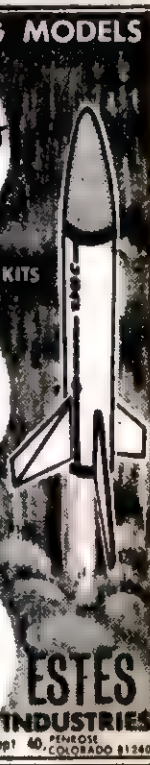

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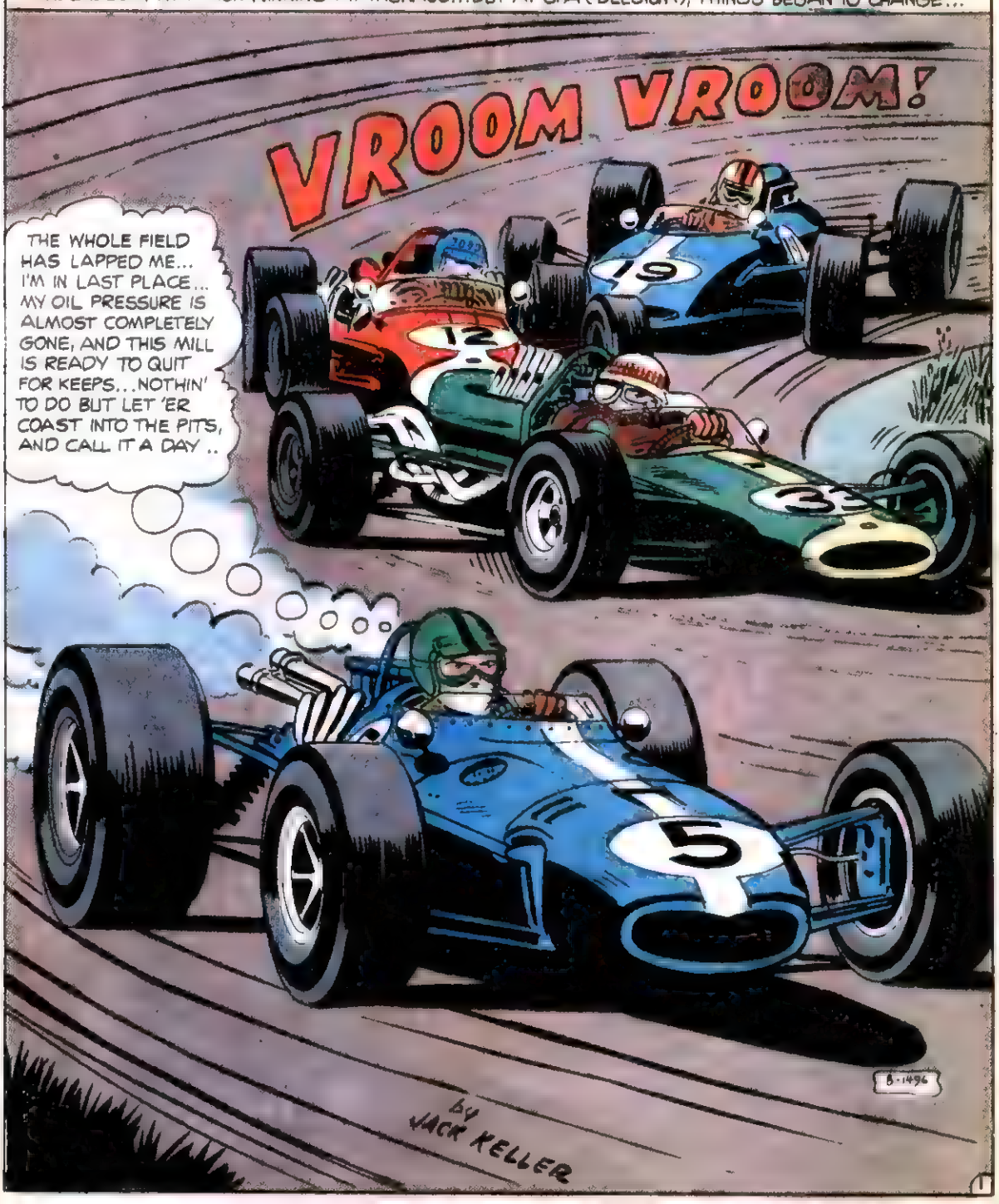
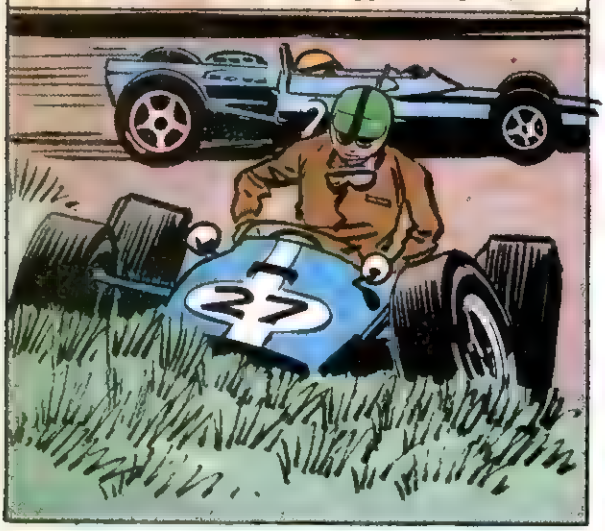
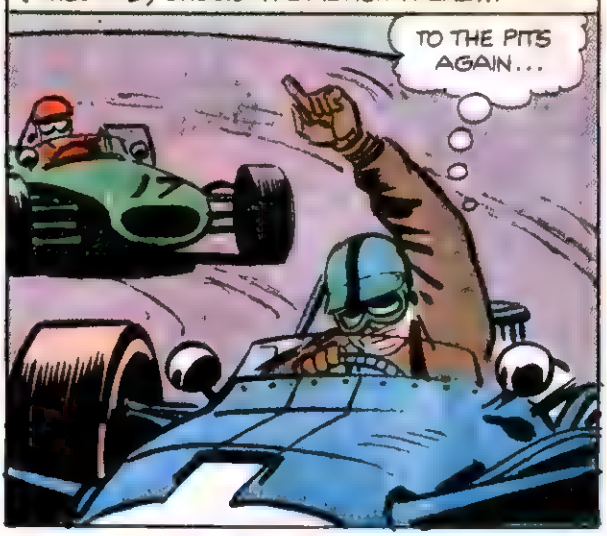
RICK ROBERTS WAS LAST YEAR'S CHAMPION...THINGS HAD GONE EXTREMELY WELL, WITH ONE VICTORY AFTER ANOTHER, AND RICK WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR...IT STARTED WELL ENOUGH, WITH RICK WINNING AT MONACO...BUT AT SPA (BELGIUM), THINGS BEGAN TO CHANGE...


VROOM VROOM!
THE WHOLE FIELD HAS LAPPED ME... I'M IN LAST PLACE... MY OIL PRESSURE IS ALMOST COMPLETELY GONE, AND THIS MILL IS READY TO QUIT FOR KEEPS...NOTHIN' TO DO BUT LET 'ER COAST INTO THE PITS, AND CALL IT A DAY..
19
12
33
5
B-1496
BY JACK KELLER

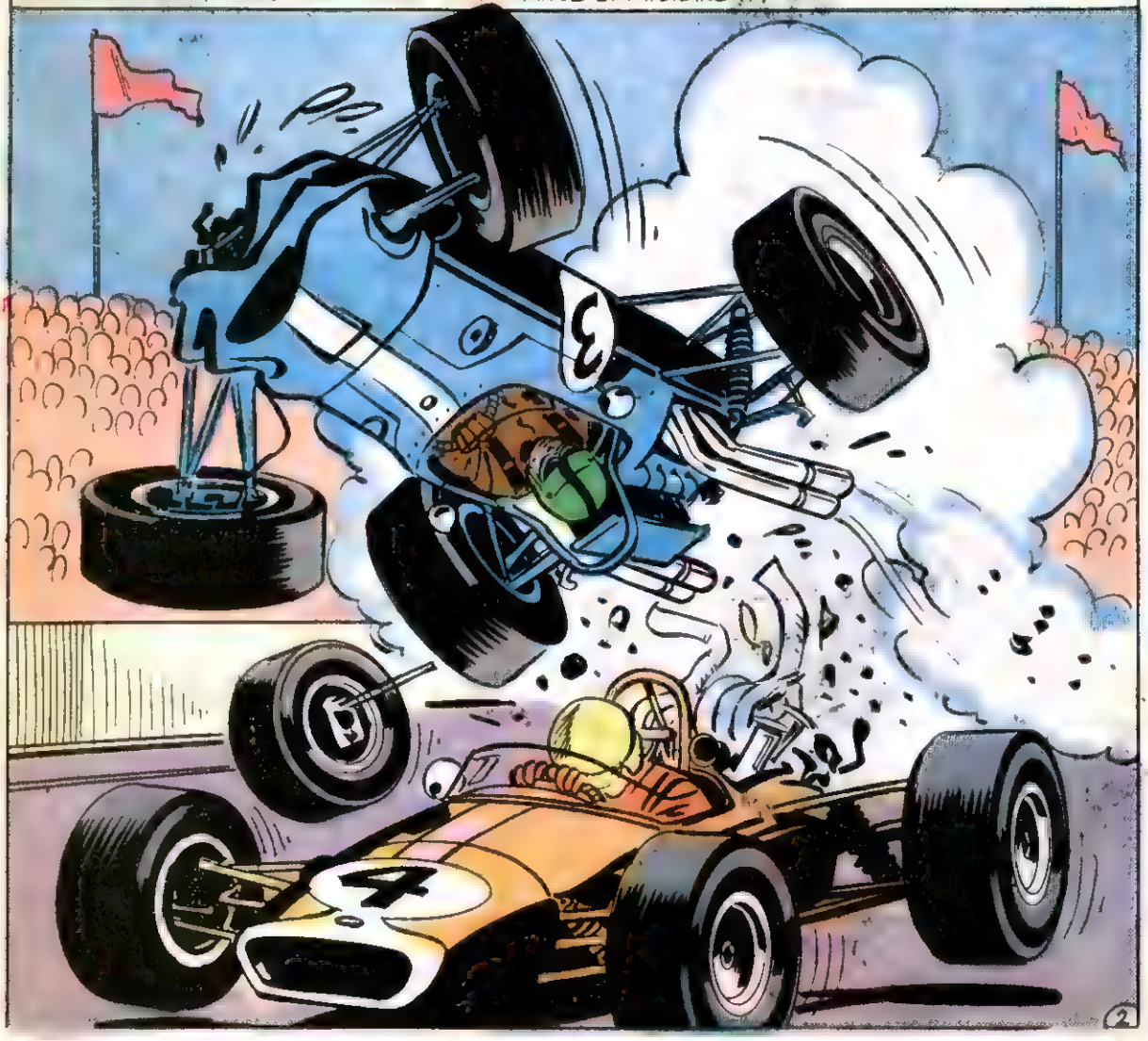
AT REIMS (FRANCE) IT WAS ANOTHER D.N.F., WHEN RICK BROKE THE FRONT SUSPENSION...



A PACKED UP GEAR BOX AT BRANDS HATCH (ENGLAND) ENDED THE ACTION THERE...

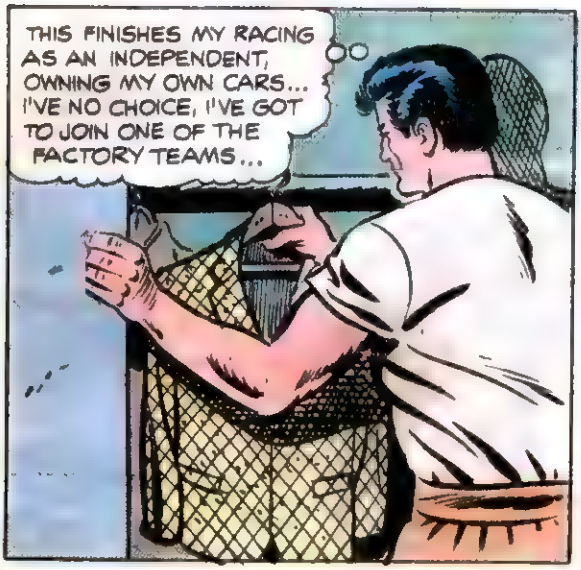


BUT THE CLIMAX TO THE DISMAL SEASON HAPPENED AT ZANDVORT (HOLLAND), WHEN A BRABHAM STALLED ON THE GRID DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF RICK'S EAGLE...RICK HIT THE BRAKES, BUT THE CRASH WAS INEVITABLE, THERE JUST WASN'T ANY CHANCE OF AVOIDING IT!



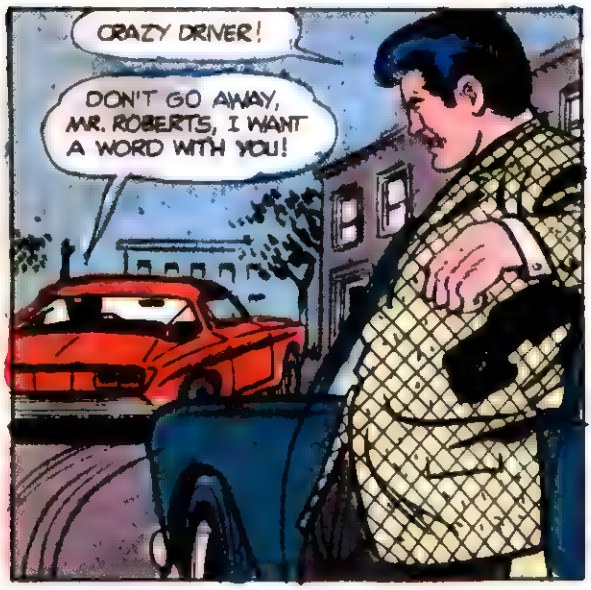
RICK SURVIVED THE SPECTACULAR WRECK WITH ONLY MINOR SCRATCHES AND BRUISES, BUT HIS EXPENSIVE RACING CAR WAS DEMOLISHED .
I HAD EVERYTHING I OWNED IN THAT CAR...I'M BROKE...

RACING IS AN EXPENSIVE BUSINESS, AND WHEN YOU HAVE A SEASON LIKE I'M HAVING IT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE TO SURVIVE... I'M NOT ONLY BROKE, I'M IN DEBT UP TO MY EARS...

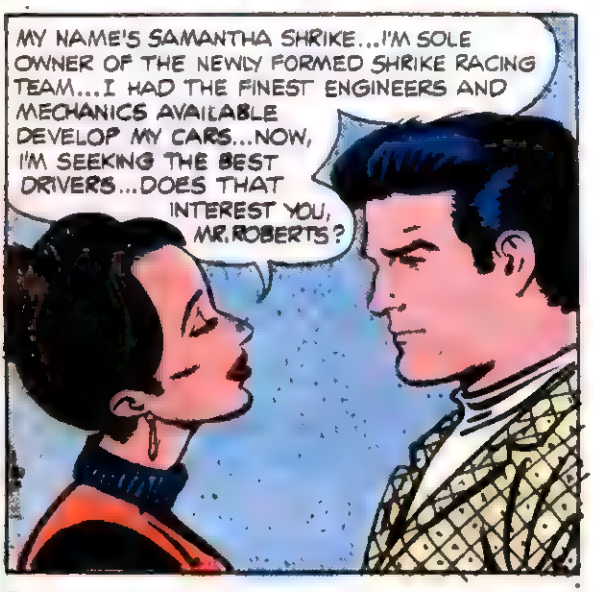

THIS FINISHES MY RACING AS AN INDEPENDENT, OWNING MY OWN CARS... I'VE NO CHOICE, I'VE GOT TO JOIN ONE OF THE FACTORY TEAMS...

HMMM LET'S SEE, WHO SHALL I CONTACT FIRST... FERRARI, BRABHAM, LOTUS, THEY'RE ALL TOPS...

SUDDENLY...
HEY!
VROOM!

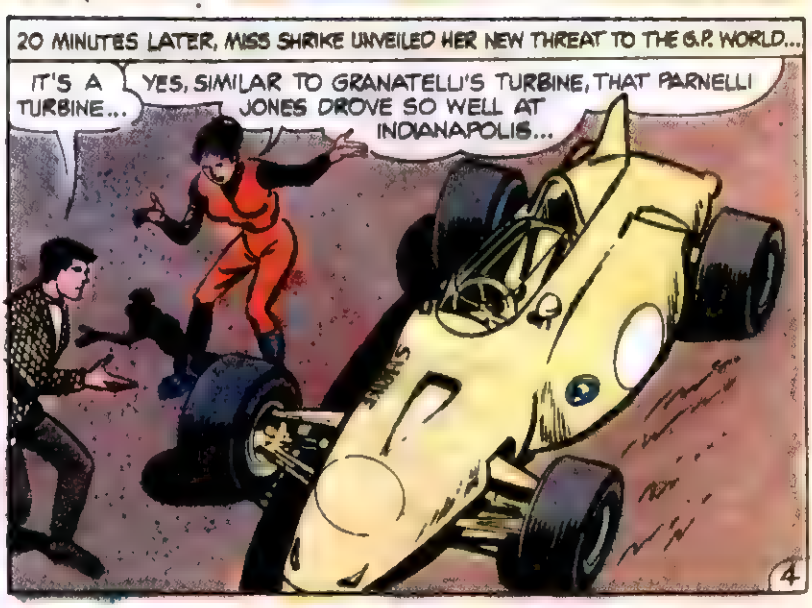

CRAZY DRIVER!
DON'T GO AWAY, MR. ROBERTS, I WANT A WORD WITH YOU!

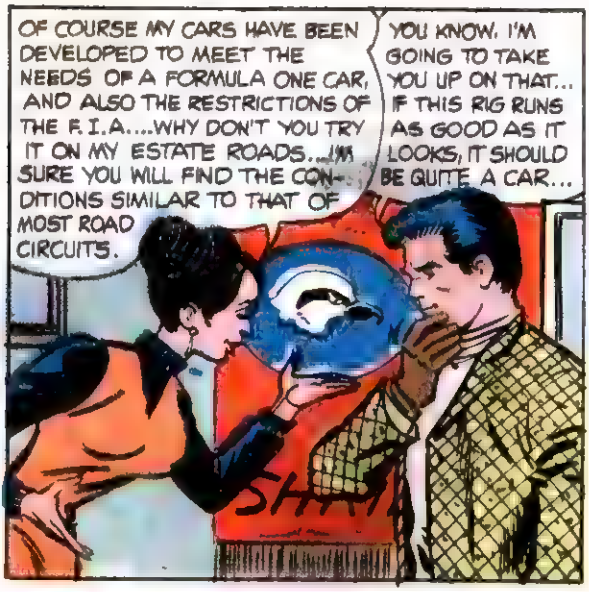
I'D LIKE A FEW WORDS WITH YOU TOO, MISS... LIKE HOW DID YOU EVER GET A DRIVER'S LICENSE?
OH, YOU MEN, YOU'RE ALL ALIKE WHEN IT COMES TO CRITICIZING WOMEN DRIVERS...BUT ENOUGH OF THAT, I'VE IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO DISCUSS WITH YOU...

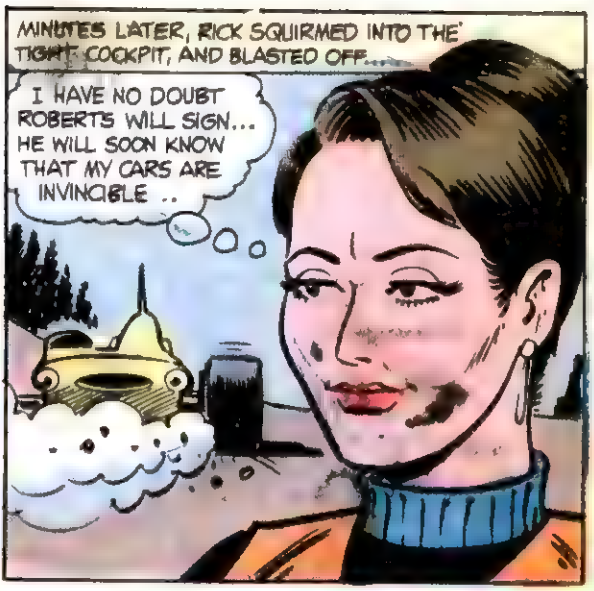

MY NAME'S SAMANTHA SHRIKE...I'M SOLE OWNER OF THE NEWLY FORMED SHRIKE RACING TEAM...I HAD THE FINEST ENGINEERS AND MECHANICS AVAILABLE DEVELOP MY CARS...NOW, I'M SEEKING THE BEST DRIVERS...DOES THAT INTEREST YOU, MR. ROBERTS?

WELL I DO NEED WHEELS, BUT I HAD PLANNED TO APPROACH THE ESTABLISHED TEAMS...NEW CARS ARE USUALLY UNRELIABLE...I MUST HAVE A CAR THAT I CAN WIN WITH NOW, NOT NEXT YEAR...
BUT YOU CAN WIN NOW WITH MY CARS...

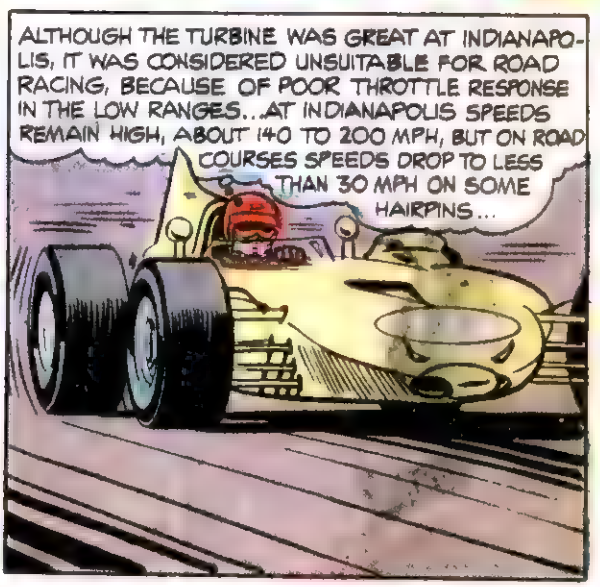
ONCE YOU'VE SEEN MY CARS THE OTHERS WILL SEEM OBSOLETE...PLEASE, AT LEAST TAKE A LOOK AT MY CARS...
I GUESS THERE'S NO HARM IN THAT...

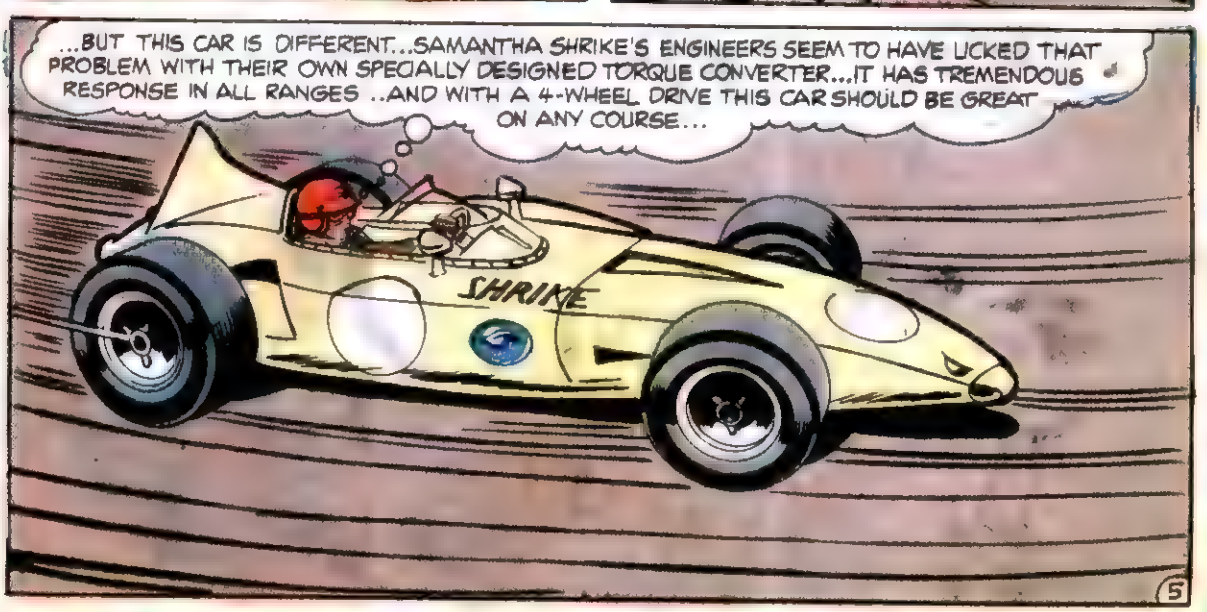

20 MINUTES LATER, MISS SHRIKE UNVEILED HER NEW THREAT TO THE G.P. WORLD...
IT'S A TURBINE...
YES, SIMILAR TO GRANATELLI'S TURBINE, THAT PARNELLI JONES DROVE SO WELL AT INDIANAPOLIS...

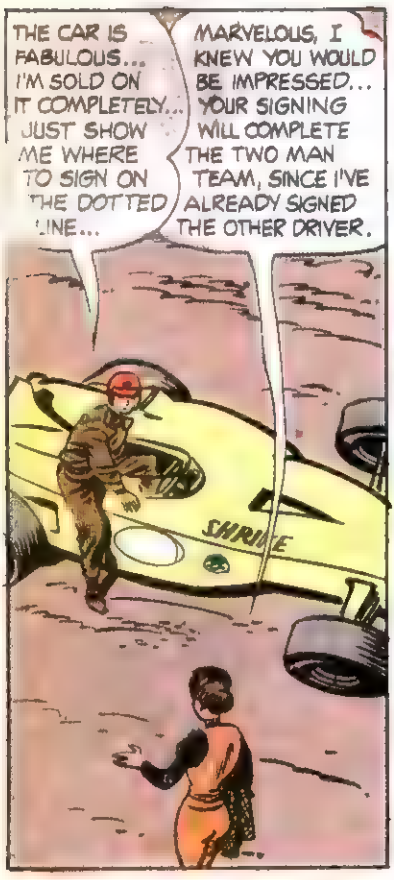

OF COURSE MY CARS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A FORMULA ONE CAR, AND ALSO THE RESTRICTIONS OF THE F.I.A....WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT ON MY ESTATE ROADS...I'M SURE YOU WILL FIND THE CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO THAT OF MOST ROAD CIRCUITS.
YOU KNOW, I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU UP ON THAT... IF THIS RIG RUNS AS GOOD AS IT LOOKS, IT SHOULD BE QUITE A CAR...
SHH!

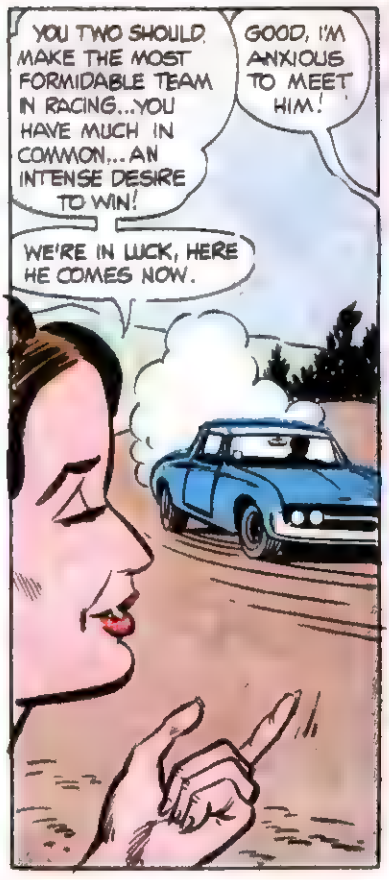

MINUTES LATER, RICK SQUIRMED INTO THE TIGHT COCKPIT, AND BLASTED OFF...
I HAVE NO DOUBT ROBERTS WILL SIGN... HE WILL SOON KNOW THAT MY CARS ARE INVINCIBLE ..

RICK SPENT A FEW MOMENTS GETTING THE FEEL OF THE CAR, BEFORE HE PUT IT TO THE TEST..
IT SURE IS QUIET COMPARED TO A CONVENTIONAL POWERED CAR...


ALTHOUGH THE TURBINE WAS GREAT AT INDIANAPOLIS, IT WAS CONSIDERED UNSUITABLE FOR ROAD RACING, BECAUSE OF POOR THROTTLE RESPONSE IN THE LOW RANGES...AT INDIANAPOLIS SPEEDS REMAIN HIGH, ABOUT 140 TO 200 MPH, BUT ON ROAD COURSES SPEEDS DROP TO LESS THAN 30 MPH ON SOME HAIRPINS...


...BUT THIS CAR IS DIFFERENT...SAMANTHA SHRIKE'S ENGINEERS SEEM TO HAVE LICKED THAT PROBLEM WITH THEIR OWN SPECIALLY DESIGNED TORQUE CONVERTER...IT HAS TREMENDOUS RESPONSE IN ALL RANGES ..AND WITH A 4-WHEEL DRIVE THIS CAR SHOULD BE GREAT ON ANY COURSE...
SHRIKE

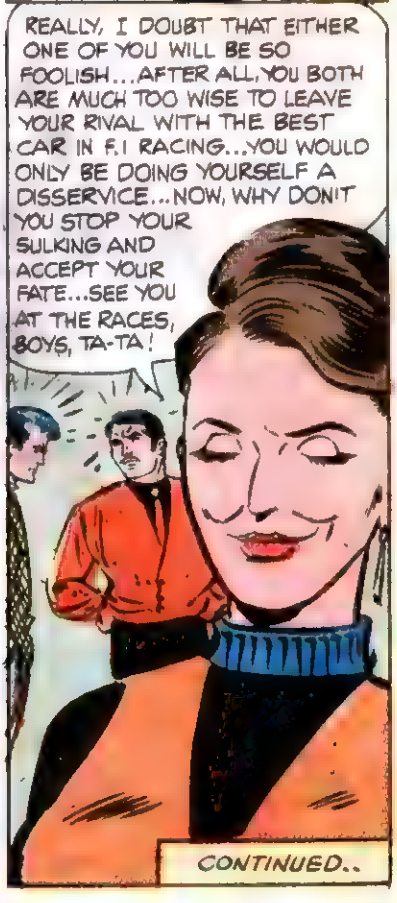

THE CAR IS FABULOUS... I'M SOLD ON IT COMPLETELY... JUST SHOW ME WHERE TO SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE...
MARVELOUS, I KNEW YOU WOULD BE IMPRESSED... YOUR SIGNING WILL COMPLETE THE TWO MAN TEAM, SINCE I'VE ALREADY SIGNED THE OTHER DRIVER.
SHRIKE


YOU TWO SHOULD MAKE THE MOST FORMIDABLE TEAM IN RACING...YOU HAVE MUCH IN COMMON... AN INTENSE DESIRE TO WIN!
GOOD, I'M ANXIOUS TO MEET HIM!
WE'RE IN LUCK, HERE HE COMES NOW.

RICK THIS IS MY OTHER DRIVER, COUNT RAMON TORRO...
TORRO?
ROBERTS?

RICK CAN HARDLY BELIEVE HIS EYES, THAT THE OTHER DRIVER IS NONE OTHER THAN HIS OLD BITTER RIVAL WITH WHOM HE HAD DUELED ON SO MANY PREVIOUS OCCASIONS..
ME, DRIVE WITH HIM? THANKS, BUT NO THANKS, MISS SHRIKE
6

I REFUSE TO BE SEEN WITH HIM, LET ALONE DRIVE WITH THIS SWINE... IF HE DRIVES WITH A SHRIKE, THEN I QUIT
RIGHT, THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME...IF HE'S IN, I'M OUT...


REALLY, I DOUBT THAT EITHER ONE OF YOU WILL BE SO FOOLISH...AFTER ALL, YOU BOTH ARE MUCH TOO WISE TO LEAVE YOUR RIVAL WITH THE BEST CAR IN F.1 RACING...YOU WOULD ONLY BE DOING YOURSELF A DISSERVICE...NOW, WHY DON'T YOU STOP YOUR SULKING AND ACCEPT YOUR FATE...SEE YOU AT THE RACES, BOYS, TA-TA!
CONTINUED..

RICK ROBERTS "THE LOSING SEASON" PART 2

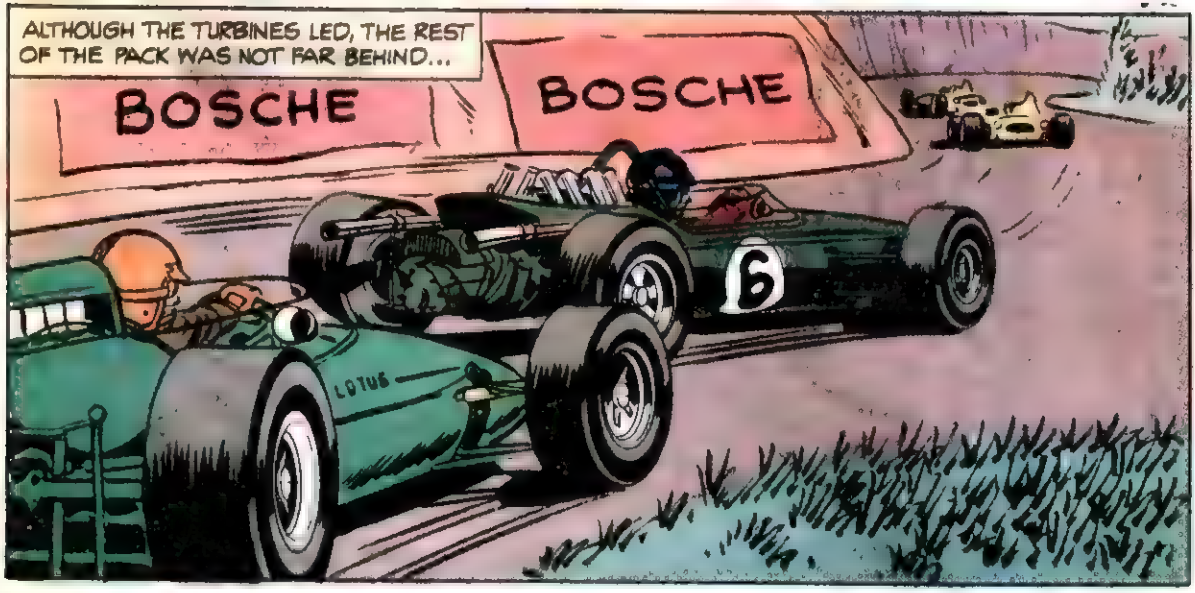
SAMANTHA SHRIKE GAMBLED THAT ALTHOUGH RICK ROBERTS AND RAMON TORRO WERE BITTER RIVALS, THEY WOULD NOT QUIT HER NEWLY FORMED RACING TEAM...AND SAMANTHA WAS RIGHT, FOR AT THE NURBURGRING (GERMANY) THE RIVALS APPEARED EAGER TO OUT PERFORM THE OTHER...SO FIERCE WAS THEIR COMPETITIVE SPIRIT THAT THEY POSTED THE TOP QUALIFYING TIMES...RICK SHATTERED THE OLD RECORD WITH A LAP TIME OF 8 MINUTES 3.5 SECONDS, AND TORRO WAS ONLY A TENTH OF A SECOND SLOWER...AT THE OUTSET THE TWO POWERFUL TURBINES SURGED INTO THE LEAD, AND IT IS AS THEY ROUND THE KARUSSELL ON LAP ONE, THAT PART 2 OF THE LOSING SEASON BEGINS...

THE CONVENTIONAL PISTON DRIVEN CARS WILL BE TOUGH TO BEAT ON THIS WINDING, HILLY COURSE...BUT THE ONLY CAR I'M REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT IS THE ONE THAT'S FOLLOWING ME---TORRO'S TURBINE!

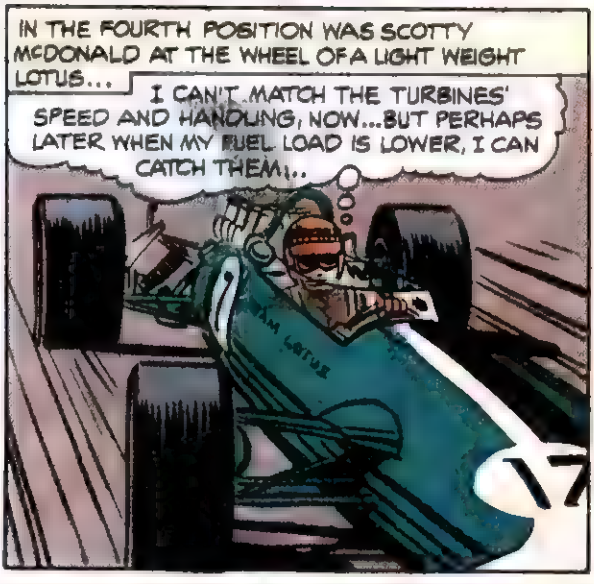
ROBERTS LEADS, BUT I PLAN TO REMEDY THAT SITUATION, SOON ENOUGH...

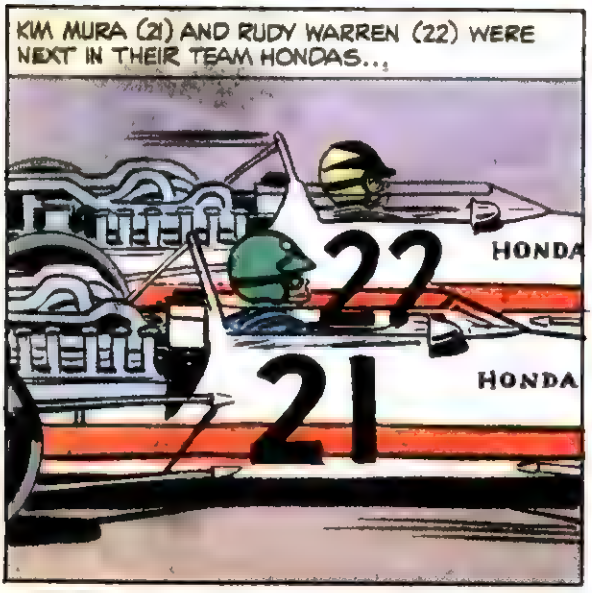
B 1522

by JACK KELLER


ALTHOUGH THE TURBINES LED, THE REST OF THE PACK WAS NOT FAR BEHIND...
BOSCHE
BOSCHE
6
LOTUS

RUNNING IN THE NUMBER 3 SPOT WAS BRIAN RANDALL, IN A FAST MOVING BRABHAM...
THOSE BLOODY JETS WILL NEVER LAST...


IN THE FOURTH POSITION WAS SCOTTY McDONALD AT THE WHEEL OF A LIGHT WEIGHT LOTUS...
I CAN'T MATCH THE TURBINES' SPEED AND HANDLING, NOW...BUT PERHAPS LATER WHEN MY FUEL LOAD IS LOWER, I CAN CATCH THEM...
17

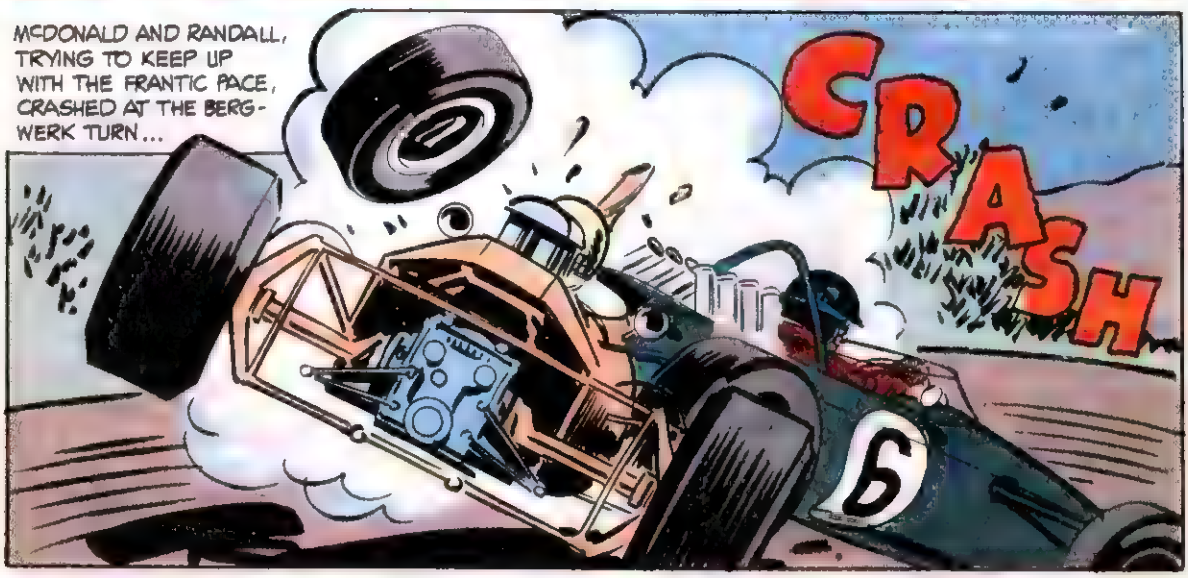

KIM MURA (21) AND RUDY WARREN (22) WERE NEXT IN THEIR TEAM HONDAS...
22
HONDA
21
HONDA

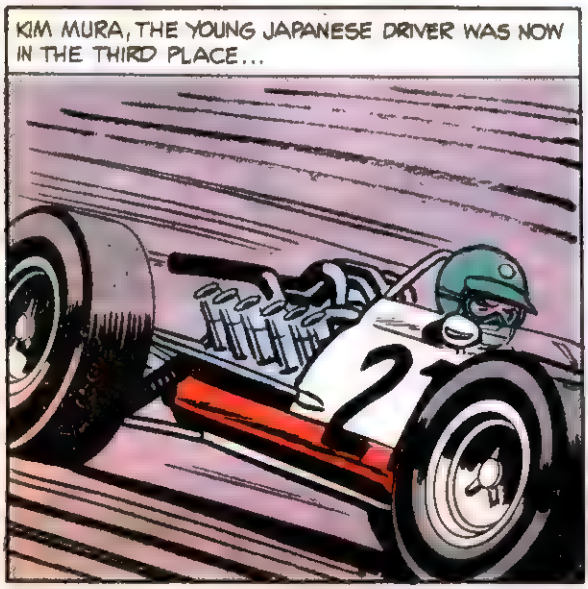
ONE MORE GENUINE THREAT REMAINED IN THE FIELD OF 18...THAT WAS THE AGING, BUT STILL GREAT EX-CHAMPION BONGIOVI, IN HIS SCARLET FERRARI...

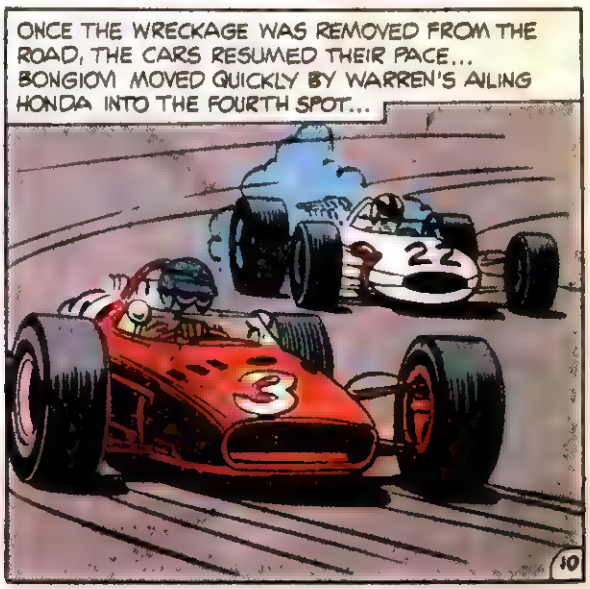
THOUGH THE REST OF THE PACK DICED FOR POSITIONS, IT WAS THE TWO LEADERS WHO DUELED MOST FIERCELY...
SHRIKE
2
SHRIKE
1
TORRO WILL NOT BE CONTENT TO LET ME HOLD THE LEAD, EVEN THOUGH WE ARE ON THE SAME TEAM... USUALLY TEAMS WORK TOGETHER, BUT WITH TORRO ON MY SIDE, WHO NEEDS ENEMIES...
ROBERTS WAS LUCKY GRABBING THE LEAD, BUT HE WON'T HOLD IT...I WOULD DESTROY HIM BEFORE I LET HIM BEAT ME...
FROM THE PITS FRENCHY LAMARR, CHIEF MECHANIC, EXPRESSED HIS ANXIETY AS THE TWO SHRIKES BLASTED BY..
NEVER BEFORE HAVE I SEEN TEAMMATES DRIVE LIKE THIS...
I THINK IT'S POSITIVELY THRILLING...
BUT M'AMSELLE SHRIKE, THIS STYLE OF DRIVING IS NOT WISE..
ON THE CONTRARY---

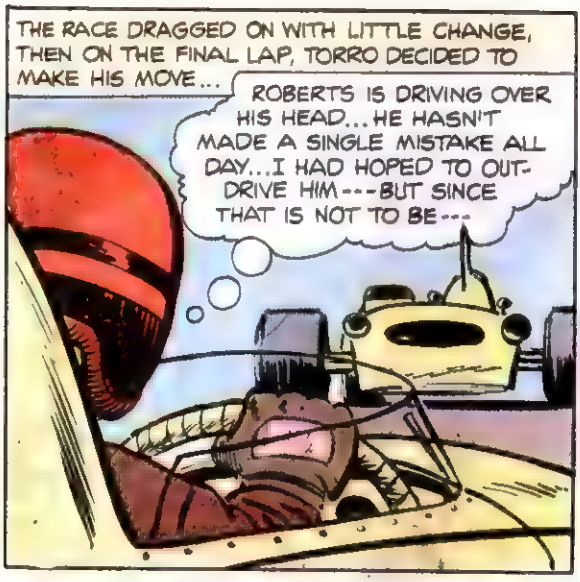
THEIR PERFORMANCE IS EXACTLY AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE... I NEEDED 2 DRIVERS WHOSE RIVALRY WOULD MAKE THEM DRIVE MY CARS TO THE LIMIT... IT IS THE BEST WAY TO PROVE THE SUPERIORITY OF MY TURBINES..

BUT AT THIS PACE, THEY MIGHT KILL ONE ANOTHER...
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, FRENCHY, THEY ARE MUCH TOO CLEVER FOR THAT...

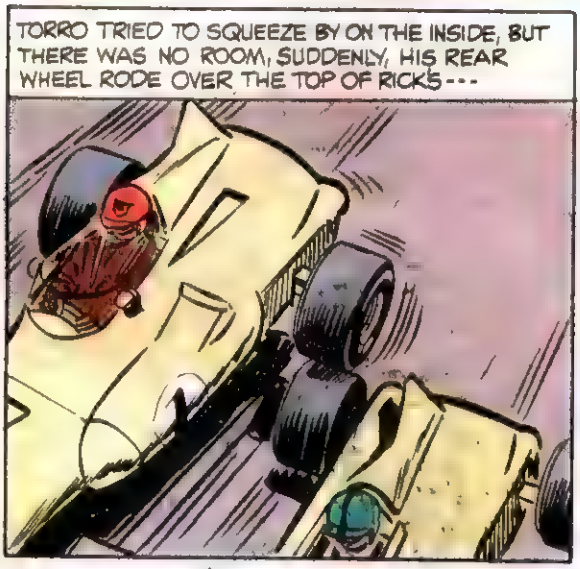

McDONALD AND RANDALL, TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH THE FRANTIC PACE, CRASHED AT THE BERG-WERK TURN...
CRASH
6

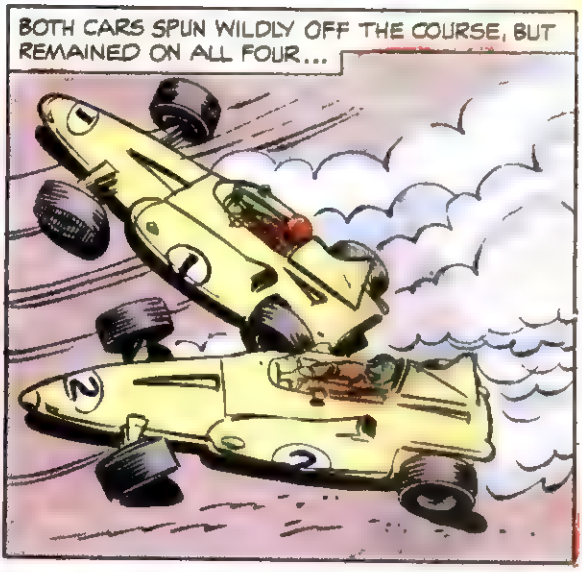

KIM MURA, THE YOUNG JAPANESE DRIVER WAS NOW IN THE THIRD PLACE...
2


ONCE THE WRECKAGE WAS REMOVED FROM THE ROAD, THE CARS RESUMED THEIR PACE... BONGIOVI MOVED QUICKLY BY WARREN'S AILING HONDA INTO THE FOURTH SPOT...
22
3


THE RACE DRAGGED ON WITH LITTLE CHANGE, THEN ON THE FINAL LAP, TORRO DECIDED TO MAKE HIS MOVE...
ROBERTS IS DRIVING OVER HIS HEAD... HE HASN'T MADE A SINGLE MISTAKE ALL DAY...I HAD HOPED TO OUT-DRIVE HIM---BUT SINCE THAT IS NOT TO BE---

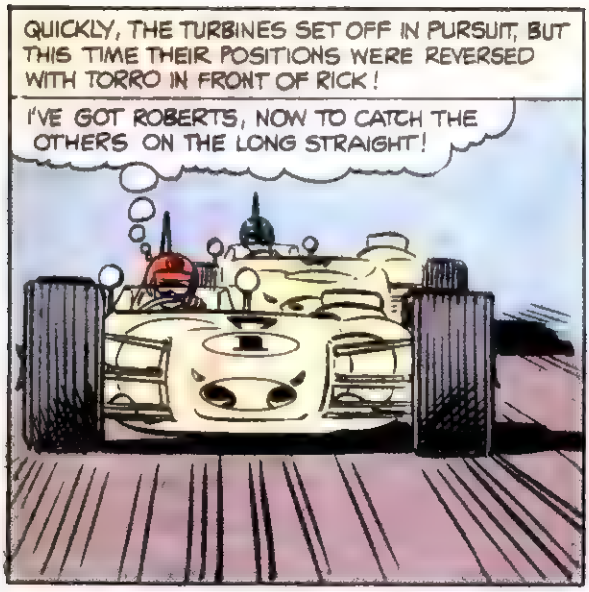
I SHALL HAVE TO THROW CAUTION TO THE WIND, AND FORCE ROBERTS INTO AN ERROR.
WHAT'S HE TRYIN' TO PROVE?

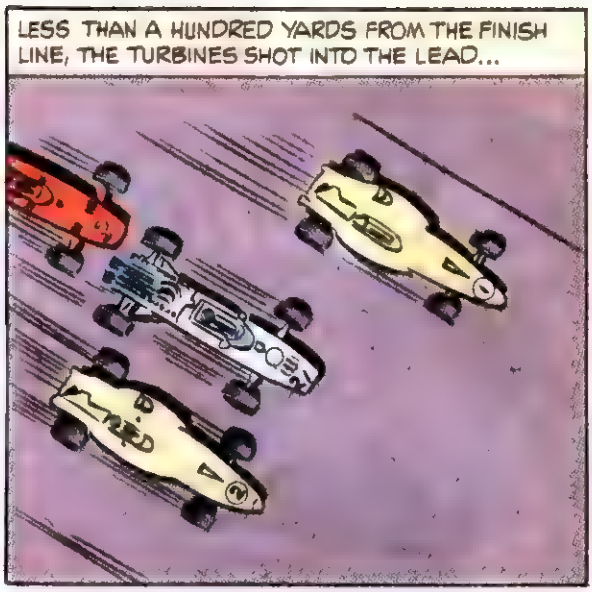

TORRO TRIED TO SQUEEZE BY ON THE INSIDE, BUT THERE WAS NO ROOM; SUDDENLY, HIS REAR WHEEL RODE OVER THE TOP OF RICK'S---

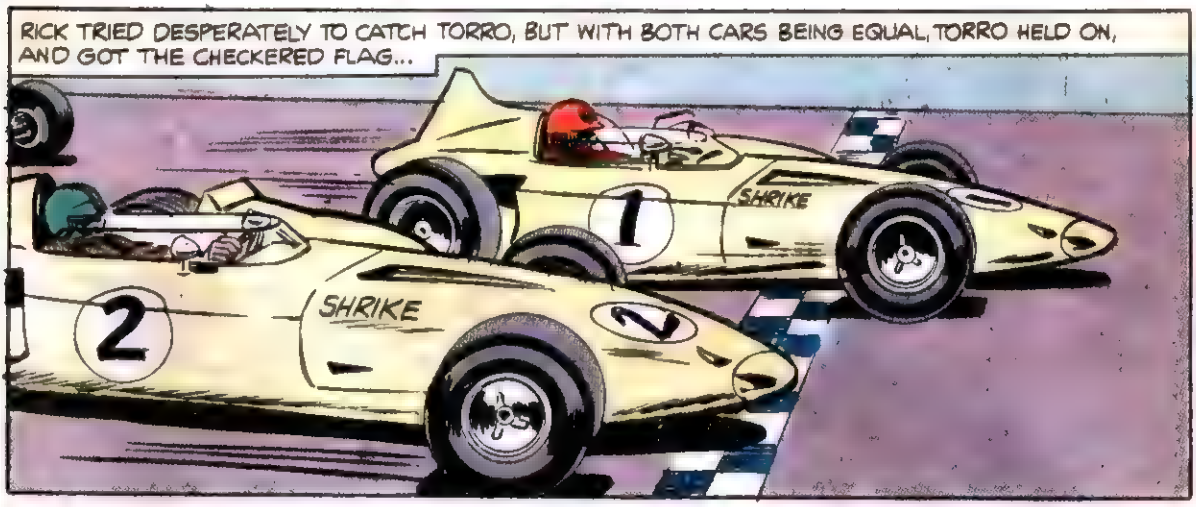

BOTH CARS SPUN WILDLY OFF THE COURSE, BUT REMAINED ON ALL FOUR...

YOU BLASTED IDIOT! I THOUGHT YOU KNEW HOW TO DRIVE!
PIG---THIS IS WHERE I TAKE OVER!

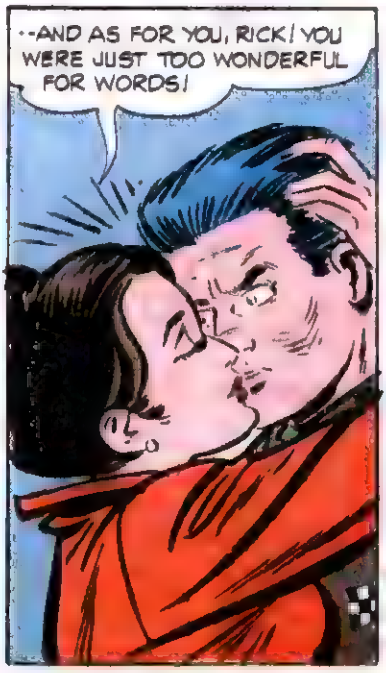
--BUT BEFORE THE PAIR COULD GET THEIR CARS BACK ON THE COURSE, MURA AND BONGIOVI SPED BY..


QUICKLY, THE TURBINES SET OFF IN PURSUIT, BUT THIS TIME THEIR POSITIONS WERE REVERSED WITH TORRO IN FRONT OF RICK!
I'VE GOT ROBERTS, NOW TO CATCH THE OTHERS ON THE LONG STRAIGHT!


LESS THAN A HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE FINISH LINE, THE TURBINES SHOT INTO THE LEAD...


RICK TRIED DESPERATELY TO CATCH TORRO, BUT WITH BOTH CARS BEING EQUAL, TORRO HELD ON, AND GOT THE CHECKERED FLAG...
SHRIKE
1
SHRIKE
2

AFTER THE CROWDS HAD DISPERSED, SAMANTHA SHRIKE CONGRATULATED THE VICTORIOUS TEAM...
YOU DROVE SPLENDIDLY, TORRO, AS I KNEW YOU WOULD...


--AND AS FOR YOU, RICK! YOU WERE JUST TOO WONDERFUL FOR WORDS!

BLAST THAT ROBERTS! I WIN, BUT ALL I GET IS A HANDSHAKE, WHILE SHE THROWS HERSELF INTO HIS ARMS... I HATE ROBERTS MORE THAN EVER...
TORRO IS FUMING WITH JEALOUSY, I THINK I LIKE THAT!
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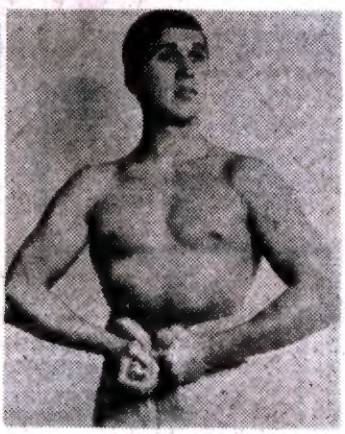

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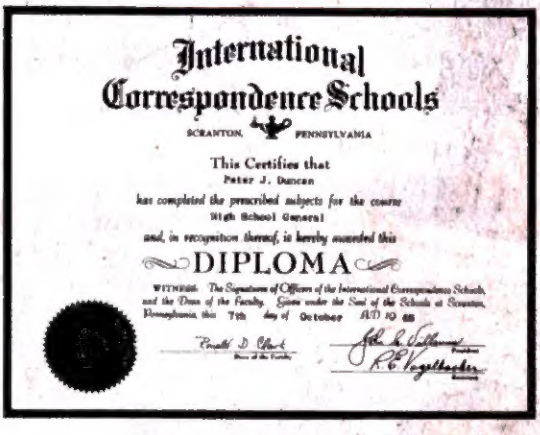

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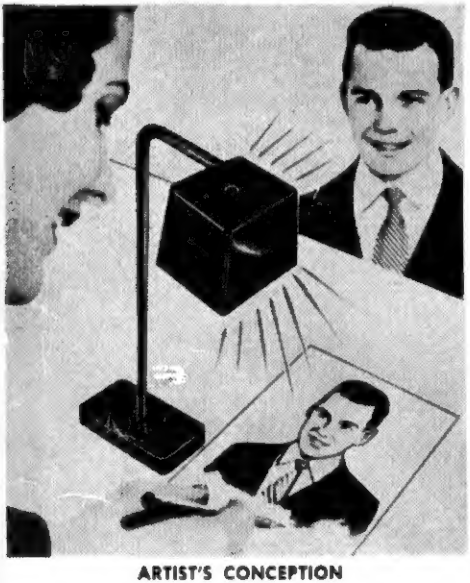

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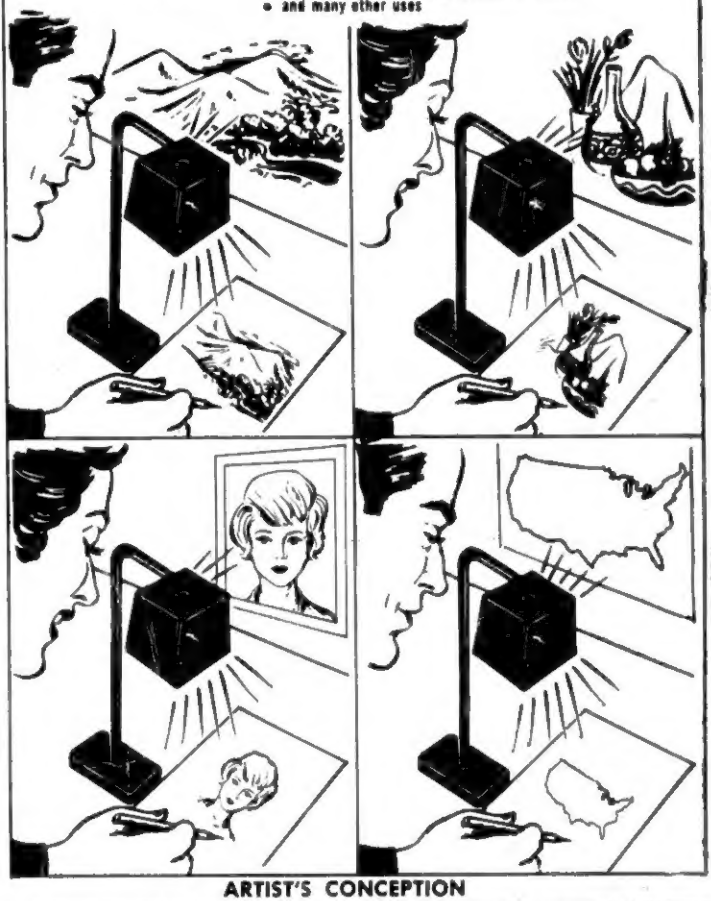

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